FBIS DAILY REPORT

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'ARAFAT: GROMYKO VISITED SYRIA TO COORDINATE CONFRONTATION

LD140958 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0725 GMT 14 Feb 80 LD

[Text] Kuwait--The Kuwaiti newspaper AL-HADAF today quotes PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat as saying that Soviet Foreign Minister Andrey Gromyko visited Damascus last month in order to coordinate for a confrontation against a "definite" Israeli attack on Syria and the Palestinian resistance. The paper adds that 'Arafat, who is now in Tehran, made the statement in a press interview which AL-WATAN will publish tomorrow.

AL-HADAF has published brief extracts of this interview in which 'Arafat speaks about a possible Iranian role on the side of the Arabs in their conflict with Israel. He said that Iran replaced Egypt 100 percent in the Arab-Israeli conflict after Cairo's signing of the peace treaty with the Zionist states. He pointed out that Gromyko's visit to Damascus at the end of January was aimed at coordination to confront a definite Israeli blow against Syria and the Palestinian resistance.

The Palestinian leader is quoted as saying that the Israeli attack is basically centered on the eruption of the Lebanese situation and on entering the battle with Syria across Lebanon, because Soviet-Syrian relations do not allow any battles in the Golan.

Syria has strong political and defensive relations with the Soviet Union, which is considered the main source for the arming of its forces, and there are over 3,000 Soviet military experts are in Syria.

'Arafat said that Syria's decision to withdraw its peace-keeping forces from Beirut to the Al-Biqa' Plain, which is across the Syrian border and close to the Israeli borders, was a kind of preparation to confront the "deteriorating situation" in the light of the likelihood of an Israeli attack. However, he added that Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad froze the withdrawal decision because of the worsening of the security conditions in the Lebanese capital and the likelihood of the Lebanese Phalangist Party carrying out an attack within the framework of the anticipated Israeli plan.

AL-MUSTAQBAL REPORTS ON 'ARAFAT'S DISCUSSION IN IRAQ

JN131631 Paris AL-MUSTAQBAL in Arabic 9 Feb 80 p 19 JN

[Text] AL-MUSTAQBAL has learned that in addition to holding consultations over the Arab and Islamic stand vis-a-vis the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan, Yasir 'Arafat's visit to Baghdad aimed at discussing the following five major issues:

1. Insuring military training for a number of Palestinian youths, particularly those who have begun training on fighter planes in Libya. Since Libyan-Palestinian relations have deteriorated, it has become necessary to find another place for training.

2. Sounding out Iraq on the measures it might take if the Palestinian resistance is exposed to a blow in Lebanon. In this context, 'Arafat briefed Iraqi officials on the military situation of the Palestinian resistance, specified some of its needs and discussed several detailed matters.

'Arafat suggested the convening of an Arab summit conference once the Israeli aggression occurs. He pointed out that the Saudi officials prefer such a move and have shown readiness to exert more serious pressures on the United States.

3. Iraqi officials explained to 'Arafat the maximum degree of flexibility with which they believe the Palestinian leader should face the new initiative Austrian Chancellor Kreisky is seeking to crystallize and put forward. Kreisky visited Saudi Arabia, where he held talks with officials and met with 'Arafat.

4. During the discussion of the Jordanian stand, Iraqi officials expressed satisfaction with this position. In light of the talks which the new Jordanian prime minister, Ash-Sharif 'Abd al-Hamid Sharaf, held in Baghdad a few days ago, Iraqi officials advised further Jordanian-Palestinian coordination and pointed out that work in an atomsphere of trust is now possible.

5. Iraqi officials stressed that relations between the Palestinian resistance and President Ilyas Sarkis should be good. They said that the crisis of the past 2 weeks was unjustified. In this context, Iraqi officials drew attention to what had happened at the Tunis summit, pointing out that the stand adopted by President Ilyas Sarkis was mature and responsible.

It seems that, sensing the concern of Iraqi officials over this point, 'Arafat said in a statement published in ATH-THAWRAH, organ of the party, and broadcast by the radio and television: "The relationship between the Lebanese authority and the Palestinian resistance is good. I respect President Ilyas Sarkis. I am the guest of Lebanon and he is the president of the host country."

'Arafat thanked President Saddam Husayn for paying the PLO's share of the aid decided by the Baghdad summit. It is noteworthy that Iraq also paid the shares of Syria and Jordan. The three shares amount to $173,333,232.

SALAH KHALAF COMMENTS ON PLO'S ROLE IN S. LEBANON

NC131808 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 13 Feb 80 NC

[Excerpts] Among the persons with whom Speaker al-As'ad met today was Salah Khalaf, alias Abu Iyad, a PLO leader.

Mr Khalaf held a dialog with the journalists in which he said: Our visit to Speaker Kamil al-As'ad has been a visit to a person whom we respect and who represents the legislative side of the country. Therefore, we must consult with him on all questions that pertain to Lebanon and the Palestinian issue.

Abu Iyad was asked: After receiving Prime Minister al-Huss' explanation of the recent cabinet decision, do you still have any objections to the army filling the security vacuum? He answered: We have never objected to the deployment of the army in any part of Lebanon because we do not have the right to do so. He was told: In the south, for example, you have expressed objections. He said: No. No, we have never expressed objections to the deployment of the army. We do not have the right to do so.

Abu Iyad was asked: Mr Yasir 'Arafat clearly expressed his objection to the deployment of the army in the south in the famous speech in which he criticized Lebanese officials. He answered: There was only some misunderstanding on that speech and this has been resolved.

Replying to a question, he said: There are no crises now. We hope that President Sarkis and brother Yasir 'Arafat will hold a meeting as soon as possible. We hope that Speaker Kamil al-As'ad will facilitate such a meeting.

Aby Iyad was asked: How do you explain the fact that the Palestinian Liberation Army has been deployed in places previously occupied by the Syrian deterrent forces; namely, from Khaldah up to the south? He answered: First, in Khaldah, the Syrian Army--the deterrent forces--are still there. However, beyond Khaldah there is absolutely nobody other than the Palestine Liberation Army to prevent any security vacuum. Such a vacuum must be filled by either the army or any side that is available. Actually, there is only one barricade in Rumaylah and another in Az-Zahrani.

He added: The [Palestine] Liberation Army is part of the Syrian forces. There is a liberation army belonging to the PLO and another army that is under the command of the Syrian operations. It is considered part of the Syrian Army, has no Palestinian characteristics and absolutely does not come under our command.

He was asked: And if the Arab Deterrent Forces withdraw? He answered: The liberation army will withdraw with them. Asked who will take over security [duties] in the vacated areas, Salah Khalaf said: The Lebanese state. The National movement, the National Front and the Join Command have agreed and expressed their view; namely, that the internal security forces and the gendarmerie will take over security. He was asked: Does that include the army? He answered: Even the army; but ask the National Movement about it. We have nothing to do with this.

Abu Iyad was asked: How do you view the situation at present? He answered: I am pleased with the measures of Syrian rapprochement with the Lebanese state because, really, Syrian-Lebanese official relations should be good.

Asked whether it is in the interest of the Palestinian resistance to aggravate the situation internally or in the south, he answered: Never, we are against fighting and against the aggravation of the situation. I declare in a loud voice: We are against fighting regardless of the reason.

He was told: In the past you expected a hot spring in Lebanon. He answered: That was a long time ago.

He was asked: Do you have any new expectations? Abu Iyad answered: We and the Lebanese expect that there will be no resumption of the fighting and that peace should continue to reign in Lebanon.

He was finally asked: Former President Sham'un has renewed the call for a dialog with the Palestinian side. He answered: We are naturally prepared for any dialog with any of the sides.

FARUQ QADDUMI REITERATES REJECTION OF UN RESOLUTION 242

LD131502 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1224 GMT 13 Feb 80 LD

[Text] Kuwait--A prominent Palestinian fedayeen leader, Faruq Qaddumi had a meeting today with Crown Prince and Prime Minister Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah as-Sabah and Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad as-Sabah.

Qaddumi, head of the PLO Political Department, said that he reviewed with Shaykh Sabah the latest developments in the Arab region and the situation in Lebanon in light of the escalating Israeli attacks on southern Lebanon. He added that both sides also reviewed the attack against the Tunisian town of Qafsah at the end of last month. He said that the Tunisian town [words indistinct].

Qaddumi said that "the latest American assault" on the Middle East region sought to realize a number of targets which included "concealing the American dilemma in Iran, concealing the Arab-Israeli conflict as a basic issue and pushing forward the Camp David agreements another stage in which the United States would involve specific Arab sides in these agreements." He added that its aim was also to attempt "to drag the Arab region and the Middle East in general into signing security agreements and military alliances." However, he expressed his belief that these plans "will not be successful."

The Palestinian official said that Austrian Chancellor Bruno Kreisky did not put forward any new plan for solving the Middle East crisis during his recent visit to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. He repeated the organization's rejection of UN Security Council Resolution 242 because it is a decision "[word indistinct] the national rights of the Palestinian people and views our case as being a case of refugees."

Qaddumi said that the invitation extended by Iranian President Abolhasan Bani-Sadr to hold a conference in Tehran for the Confrontation and Steadfastness Front, opposed to the policy of Egyptian President Anwar as-Sadat toward Israel, required consultations with members of the front; namely, Syria, South Yemen, Algeria and Libya, in addition to the organization.

In reply to a question about the statement by the Iranian president in which he demanded finding "a real Palestinian leader," he replied by saying that "there is a collective Palestinian leadership exercising its work in a democratic manner and establishing firm and solid relations with its brethren and friends in the world. We, in our revolutionary experience, differ from others' experiences and a friendly revolutionary experience would not necessarily apply to our experience as a Palestinian revolution."

The Palestinian official, who is currently on a tour in the Gulf, said that relations between Syria and the liberation organization will not be affected by Syria's decision to withdraw its forces, operating within the Arab Deterrent Force in Lebanon, from Beirut. He added that the organization "fully strives to coordinate with its brethren in Syria in all matters."

KUWAIT

PRIME MINISTER RECEIVES PLO'S QADDUMI

LD131044 Kuwait Domestic Service in Arabic 1000 GMT 13 Feb 80 LD

[Text] Crown Prince and Prime Minister Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah as-Sabah received at his office at 1230 today Mr Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO Political Department, and an accompanying delegation on the occasion of their visit to the country. Present at the meeting was the director of PLO office in Kuwait.

AL-QABAS: GOVERNMENT TO SUPPLY IRAN WITH PETROLEUM PRODUCTS

LD131006 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0700 GMT 13 Feb 80 LD

[Text] Kuwait--A press report here today states that Kuwait has decided to supply Iran with refined petroleum products, especially kerosene, and to establish cooperation between the two oil sectors of the two Gulf countries, which are members of OPEC.

AL-QABAS, in an unattributed report, says that this two-branched agreement was the result of negotiations held by an NIOC delegation which "secretly" visited Kuwait last week. It adds that no information is yet available regarding the conditions or clauses of the agreement or any other details about the quantity of petroleum products which Iran will import.

The paper says that the visit by the delegation, which included officials from Iranian [words indistinct], "was not made public and was kept secret." It adds that the delegation requested the establishment of cooperation and for Kuwaiti expertise to be extended to Iran regarding petroleum matters and technical matters connected with it, "and an agreement has been reached to commence with this cooperation."

OIL MINISTER CALLS FOR CUT IN NONESSENTIAL OIL CONSUMPTION

LD091516 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1333 GMT 9 Feb 80 LD

[Text] Kuwait--Shaykh 'Ali al-Khalifah as-Sabah, Kuwaiti minister of oil, today called for a reduction in the nonessential consumption of oil and a cut-back in "wasteful" consumption of oil products.

In a speech delivered here on his behalf at the opening ceremony of the conference on alternative energy sources, he said that it is essential to restore balance to the world market and to equate the output of the various sources of energy with the reserves available, a matter which, he pointed out, demands the "fairer" participation of all the states who own these reserves in facing the increasing need to consume energy.

The Kuwaiti minister of oil called for an increase in the output of nonoil energy sources over what has been achieved in recent years so that the burden on the oil-exporting countries can be reduced "and so that nonessential consumption of oil can be reduced, to preserve it for the production of petrochemical goods and for use in specialized spheres." However, he pointed out that this will not be realized unless the industrial countries increase their efforts "to reduce wasteful consumption of oil products."

Shaykh 'Ali expressed his regret that the industrial countries do not exert tangible efforts to develop alternative energy sources and restrain consumption, instead of wasting "too much time and effort in futile arguments about reducing oil prices."

He warned that a number of OPEC countries will be facing "great" difficulties as a result of the increased consumption of petroleum by these countries "when the quantities allocated for local consumption have increased and the quantities available for export reduced, leading to a reduction in these countries, revenue, which constitutes a fundamental element in their economic development."

The Kuwaiti minister said it is nonsensical for the OPEC countries to demand that the international community limit its consumption and not to apply the same thing in their own countries. It is also nonsensical to try to obtain fair prices for our oil resources in international markets and to sell energy in our local markets at prices which hardly cover the cost of distribution and marketing."

He called for the adjustment of energy prices in Kuwait so they reflect some of the cost borne by the national economy as a result of transferring oil resources from world markets to the local market. He also called for increased (?cooperation) with Arab and other countries in similar situations, to benefit from their experience in reducing the rate of growth in the consumption of energy; and for the citizens to be aware of the importance of saving energy and the necessity to economize in its use, and of the ensuing benefits from reducing the present increases in consumption.

COMMITTEE ORGANIZED TO PREPARE FOR RESTORATION OF PARLIAMENT

LD101354 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1302 GMT 10 Feb 80 LD

[Excerpts] Kuwait, 10 February--The amir issued a decree today providing for the formation of a committee to scrutinize the Kuwaiti Constitution in preparation for the restoration of parliamentary life, which was suspended 4 years ago. The decree, signed by the amir of Kuwait, Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad as-Sabah, provides for the formation of a committee of 35 people, including 11 former deputies. The decree stipulates that the committee will hold its first meeting next Tuesday.

COMMITTEE DECIDES TO PARTICIPATE IN MOSCOW OLYMPICS

LD130935 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0720 GMT 13 Feb 80 LD

[Text] Kuwait--Kuwait's AL-WATAN today reported that Kuwait has decided to take part in the Moscow Olympic games this summer. The paper attributed to the secretary of the Kuwaiti Olympic Committee, Col 'Abd al-Hamid al-Hajji, as having said that the committee, delegated by the Kuwaiti Government to decide whether to take part in the games or boycott them in protest against the Soviet military intervention in Afghanistan, decided to take part "because we must distinguish between political positions and sports." He added that the Kuwaiti Olympic Committee has conveyed this decision to the International Olympic Committee.

Col al-Hajji denounced the Soviet intervention, which resulted in setting up a new pro-Moscow Afghan Government last December. He said: "No one argues that this intervention is something rejected by peoples." However he added that "participation in the Olympiad is necessary to measure and give incentives to our sportsmen and to raise their standard through contact and experience."

OMAN

SULTAN CONGRATULATES BANI-SADR ON IRAN'S NATIONAL DAY

LD111600 Salalah Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 11 Feb 80 LD/EA

[Text] His Majesty Sultan Qabus ibn Sa'id has cabled congratulations to His Excellency Iranian President Abolhassan Bani-Sadr on the occasion of Iran's national day.

His Excellency Dr Abolhasan Bani-Sadr, president of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Tehran: On the occasion of the Iranian people's celebration of their national day, we are pleased to send you our most sincere congratulations and best wishes for your success and prosperity and stability for the friendly Iranian people. With best regards, Qabus ibn Sa'id.

PDRY

CHAIRMAN ISMA'IL CONGRATULATES GIEREK ON PARTY CONGRESS

LD131530 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 13 Feb 80 LD/EA

[Summary] Chairman 'Abd al-Fattah Isma'il has sent a congratulatory cable to Edward Gierek, first secretary of the PZPR Central Committee, on the occasion of the party's eighth congress.

"Brother 'Abd al-Fattah Isma'il said: Your congress must be regarded as a prominent historic event in the life of the Polish people and a true reflection of the extent of the radical economic and social transformations achieved by the Polish workers and toilers under the leadership of your great party, in order to raise the standard of living of the people, create material and technical satisfaction and continue successful progress in the building of a developed socialist society."

ADEN RADIO REPORTS ON YSP BRANCH CONGRESSES

LD102128 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 10 Feb 80 LD/EA

[Text] The first congress of the YSP [Yemeni Socialist Party] branch organization in the northern province of the Second Governorate concluded its business this afternoon. The closing session included an important address by brother 'Ali Badhib, member of the Political Bureau and secretary of the Central Committee.

The congress opened yesterday morning in the city of Ad-Dali and is considered to have been a model of its kind. The proceedings were attended by brothers 'Ali Shayi Hadi, member of the Central Committee and interior minister; Mansur (as-Sarai), member of the Central Committee and secretary of the party branch in the Second Governorate; [words indistinct] of the Second Governorate.

The first congress of the YSP branch organization in the northern province of the Second Governorate discussed a number of documents, including the political report submitted by the party branch committee, which, according to the radio reporter, included a detailed account of the leading role of the party organization in various fields as well as laying down the future tasks of the party branch committee in the northern province of the Second Governorate. The report was approved (?following a debate on it) and the congress issued a number of important decisions and recommendations which will serve party and mass activities in all fields and enhance the party's leading role. The delegates attending the congress also elected the leadership committee of the party branch organization in the northern province of the Second Governorate and also its investigations committee.

[Words indistinct] The meetings of the congress [word indistinct] with many appeals and [words indistinct] the congress and entrusted to the congress by mass organizations and military establishments of the northern province of the Second Governorate.

And this morning at the peoples (?hall) in Mukalla the first YSP branch congress in the southern province of the Fifth Governorate began its proceedings. The opening session of the congress was attended by brother Salim Jubran, member of the Central Committee and first secretary of the party organization in the Fifth Governorate, and a number of officials of the party, mass organizations and the state. Our reporter in Mukalla says that the congress will discuss a number of documents, including a political report, and will also elect a new leadership committee for the party organization in the southern province of the Fifth Governorate.

QATAR

FOREIGN MINISTER LEAVES FOR FRANCE 13 FEB

JN131121 Doha QNA in Arabic 1055 GMT 13 Feb 80 JN

[Excerpt] Doha, 13 February--Shaykh Ahmad ibn Sayf Al Thani, Qatari minister of state for foreign affairs, and the delegation accompanying him left Doha for Paris this morning on a 2-day official visit to France at the invitation of French Foreign Minister Jean Francois-Poncet.

In a statement to QNA, the Qatari minister said that during his visit to France, he will discuss means for strengthening relations and expanding cooperation in all fields and the arrangements for President Giscard d'Estaing's visit to Qatar scheduled to take place in early March.

SAUDI ARABIA

VENEZUELAN PRESIDENT HERRERA LEAVES FOLLOWING 2-DAY VISIT

LD131326 Riyadh SNA in Arabic 0758 GMT 13 Feb 80 LD

[Text] Riyadh--His excellency the president of Venezuela, Luis Herrera Campins, left Riyadh at 1045 this morning after a 2-day visit to the kingdom as he continued his present tour of Arab oil-producing countries. His Majesty King Khalid ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz headed those who saw his excellency off at the airport.

Joint Statement

LD131418 Riyadh SNA in Arabic 1143 GMT 13 Feb 80 LD

[Text] Riyadh--The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and Venezuela today stressed their condemnation and denunciation of the blatant Soviet aggression against the people of Afghanistan and the direct military occupation of its territory which followed.

The two countries once again stressed that the Palestinian question is the core of the Middle East problem and that no lasting peace could be established in the region unless this problem is solved comprehensively and fairly through total Israeli withdrawal from occupied Arab territories--foremost the holy city of Jerusalem--and by recognizing the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people, including their right to self-determination and the establishment of their independent state.

In a joint statement issued today at the end of the visit by the President of Venezuela Luis Herrera, the two sides agreed on the importance of reaching a new forumla for the international economic system for the better realization of justice among nations. The two sides stressed the importance of continued support for OPEC. They also expressed their total satisfaction with the level of bilateral relations.

The statement said President Herrera conveyed a message to His Majesty King Khalid ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz from the heads of state of the Andean Community--Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador and Peru--containing the desire of this group to strengthen their relations with the Arab world in various spheres.

In the joint statement the two sides expressed their total satisfaction with the levels reached by relations between the two countries and stressed their determination to develop and strengthen cooperation between them, especially in oil matters and the exchange of technological information.

They also stressed their support for the principles and the aims of the United Nations Charter, the right of every state to seek to realize its legitimate aspirations in the international community, and noninterference in the internal affairs of other states. They expressed their hope that commonsense and logic will prevail in international relations to destroy the sources of conflict and tension.

The two countries condemned the blatant foreign intervention against the defenseless people of Afghanistan and the immediate military occupation that followed it. His Majesty King Khalid explained to President Herrera the decisions adopted by the Islamabad conference to face this situation. The Venezuelan president expressed his appreciation of this stand.

Regarding the international economic position the two countries called on the developed industrial countries, Eastern or Western, to shoulder their responsibilities in full toward the international economy in general and toward the developing countries in particular.

They stressed their continuing support for OPEC in drawing up the framework of the pricing and production policy, in coordinating the oil policies of the organization's member countries, and for strengthening their negotiating power at international levels, to the benefit of these states and of the developing countries and society in general.

President Herrera expressed his appreciation for the constructive efforts being exerted by the kingdom toward realizing peace and economic stability and for the constructive achievements it was realizing in all spheres.

President Herrera extended an invitation to His Majesty King Khalid to visit Venezuela. His majesty accepted the invitation and its date will be fixed later.

UAE

DEMONSTRATORS IN NORTH PROTEST OIL PRICE INCREASE

NC131555 Manama GULF NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 1525 GMT 13 Feb 80 NC

[Text] Ra's al-Khaymah, 13 February--Shaykh Saqr ibn Muhammad al-Qasimi, member of the Supreme Council and ruler of Ra's al-Khaymah, met with several people who took part in the demonstrations which have been staged for the last 2 days denouncing the oil price increase in the northern emirates. He promised to seek a solution to this problem in cooperation with other rulers.

In 'Ajman Emirate, Shaykh Hamid ibn Rashid an-Nu'aymi, heir apparent and deputy ruler, met with the students who marched to the ruler's office to lodge their protest. He told them that the state is concerned with the subject and asked them to return to their schools as all signs indicate that their demands will be met.

In Umm al-Qaywayn, Shaykh Rashid ibn Ahmad al-Mu'alla, heir apparent and deputy ruler, has asked the students to return to their schools and stressed to them that knowledge is the road to the nation's success and to deliverance from problems.

Meanwhile, Dr Mani' Sa'id al-'Utaybah, UAE minister of petroleum and mineral resources, has said that he is currently preparing a study assigned to him by the cabinet day before yesterday regarding the reasons for the increased price of fuel in the northern emirates and ways to end this crisis.

He expressed the hope that he will complete this study very soon for submission to the next cabinet session.

AL-'UTAYBAH VIEWS WORLD ECONOMIC, POLITICAL PROBLEMS

OW140237 Tokyo KYODO in English 0048 GMT 14 Feb 80 OW

[Text] Abu Dhabi Feb 13 WAM-KYODO--United Arab Emirates Minister of Petroleum and Mineral Resources Dr. Mani'ibn Sa'id al'Utaybah stressed here Wednesday that north-south dialogue is the best means of finding suitable solutions to major international problems. He told a Japanese television team that economic, political and monetary problems in the world cannot be solved through the United Nations or through regional or limited groups.

Dr. al-'Utaybah reaffirmed his call for a conservation in oil consumption. "It is for the interest of everybody, whether producer or consumer, to be conservative," he added. He said that there is a real surplus of oil in the markets at present and that he is not calling for an artificial shortage to bring oil prices up. "Petroleum is a unique commodity, and I cannot see another commodity as unique as oil," he said, adding that market conditions cannot alone decide the prices of this commodity but that there are several factors which are related directly to this commodity. "Oil is like coin with two faces, economic and political, and we cannot separate these two. We want our friends in the West and elsewhere to understand and help solve our problems, political ones which we are not responsible in creating."

Dr. al-'Utaybah, who was instrumental in arranging a dialogue between the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) and Japan, said that this dialogue was progressing in a positive way. "What we want is simply that Japan treats the Palestinian people in the same way as she treats the Israelis. The PLO should be present in Japan as Israel," he explained.

The oil minister warned "We have to look into this basket (of international currencies) again if the dollar does not restore its stability and strength." The basket is aimed to help stabilize the dollar and will also compensate for any reduction in the value of its purchasing power, he added. He confirmed that the technicality of moving into a basket of currencies including the dollar is not a problem, as most "of our investment is in dollars and it is not in the interest of producing countries to weaken the dollar."

AL-FAJR CRITICIZES DISPATCH OF U.S. TROOPS TO ARAB GULF

NC140750 Abu Dhabi EMIRATES NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 0650 GMT 14 Feb 80 NC

[From the press review: Text of 14 February editorial in Abu Dhabi AL-FAJR]

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 14 February--U.S. officials have announced that a U.S. Marine force is being prepared for dispatch to the Arabian Sea. As far as we know, none of the Arabian Sea littoral states and none of the states nearby have asked Washington to send such a force. We do know that Arab Gulf states officials have frankly and firmly stated that the defense of the Gulf states is the duty of these states themselves. They also frequently emphasized that it is in the interest of the Arab Gulf states that they should stay out of the conflict between the superpowers because only those who plan the conflict game stand to benefit from it.

It is true that the Arab Gulf states have condemned the Soviet military intervention in Afghanistan and it is true that they sense the increasing Red danger. However, their position on Afghanistan was decided at the Islamic conference in Afghanistan and their awareness of the Soviet danger on the borders of Afghanistan does not mean that they should accept foreign forces. Even Pakistan, which senses the Soviet threat on its borders with Afghanistan, has refused to have U.S. military bases on its territory and has only asked for arms to be carried by its own people and used if necessary.

Just as they reject and condemn any Soviet expansion, the Gulf states, on the basis of the same independent national will, reject U.S. protection.

YAR

MINISTER DENIES RUMORS OF CABINET CHANGES

JN121806 San'a' Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 12 Feb 80 JN

[Text] Information and Culture Minister brother Yahya Husayn al-Arashi ruled out reports of a new government or a cabinet reshuffle. He stressed that the YAR has surmounted the stage of rapid and consecutive changes of governments. He added that the present government of brother 'Abd al-'Aziz 'Abd al-Ghani, which has entered its 6th year, has the confidence and support of brother leader 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the republic and commander in chief of the armed forces. This government is still exerting all efforts to bring about the 5-year plan.

In a statement he made to the SABA NEWS AGENCY, the minister of information said that our political leadership is very much concerned tofurther develop democracy and [words indistinct]. He added that the committee preparing for the people's assembly elections is performing all its duties in implementation of our leaders instructions to start free elections in the atmosphere of stability our country is enjoying.

In conclusion, the minister of information said that news agencies should concentrate on true reports and constructive national and pan-Arab news instead of unfounded reports. The media, especially in the West, must adhere to the principles that govern this serious field, particularly honesty and reason, which are the bases of responsible information.

PRESIDENT INTERVIEWED ON ARAB, INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

JN131950 San'a' Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 13 Feb 80 JN

["Text" of interview given by YAR President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih to the YAR newspaper ATH-THAWRAH--date not given]

[Excerpts] Question: It is well-known that you are diversifying arms sources and that our armed forces possess arms from the West and East. Why do you follow this policy and what is its importance, in your opinion? Is there a danger in following such a policy?

Answer: What you said is correct, but this is not confined to our armed forces only. This also includes the armed forces in many fraternal Arab states. What is surprising is that it is we, and not others, who are the target of campaigns of suspicion and attack, as if by diversifying the sources of arms for our armed forces we have moved from one position to another. Our decision to diversify the sources of arms is a decision dictated to us by Yemen's interests as well as pan-Arab interests.

By this decision we have not meant to take a definite political stand toward any side. Moreover, we are quite aware of what we do and its dimensions. In doing so we do not see any danger for us or any of our brothers and friends. In our opinion, is it essential to do this to consecrate our national independence and bolster our freedom, national sovereignty and pan-Arab policy which is based on positive neutrality and nonalinement. We are friends to all who seek friendship with us and seek to cooperate with all.

Question: Recently it has not been easy for political observers to define our country's position on the superpower struggle or to know our country's political affiliation on the international level and whether it is with the East or West. May I ask you, Mr President, to clarify our country's stand on the struggle taking place between the West and the East, or between Washington and Moscow?

Answer: Yemen always confirms at all international rostrums and conferences its continuous adherence to an independent and enlightened policy; namely, the policy of positive neutrality and nonalinment. Bearing this policy in mind, all can define our country's position on the superpower struggle. Our country's stand on the struggle taking place between the East and the West stems from this policy and is based on its principles. I may add to this and say that we are neither with the East against the West nor with the West against the East. We are with what is right and against what is wrong.

Question: Why did our country not have a clear stand on the issue of Soviet intervention in Afghanistan? Can we know your stand on that issue in a clearly defined manner?

Answer: I have previously said that our policy is based on nonalinement and positive neutrality. I want to add that our viewpoint regarding the dimensions of the international situation and what is taking place in the international arena is an objective and comprehensive viewpoint that is indivisible and unaffected by spontaneous reactions. Therefore, our definition of our stands toward all issues and developments is made after study, flexibility and prudence without any emotionalism or improvisation.

I believe that our participation in the Islamic states' foreign ministers conference in Islamabad, Pakistan, which condemned the intervention, is enough to reply to your question. However, we refuse to be used in the game of international struggle or to be pushed by anyone to adopt stands in his interests or against another. We believe that our stands should proceed from our interests and out of our clear and frank policy as well as through discussing the circumstances and complications of every issue or event, taking into account our national and pan-Arab issues because we have national and pan-Arab issues.

Question: You had earlier promised to hold general elections to elect a new People's Assembly this month, which coincides with the elapse of 2 years since the establishment of the Constituent People's Assembly. Why has this not been accomplished? When will your promise be fulfilled?

Answer: What is important, in my opinion, is not taking a decision or issuing it; what is important is to guarantee its success and implementation so it will not remain ink on paper. Therefore, holding general elections for the people's assembly requires preparations and this was entrusted to the Constituent People's Assembly within its jurisdiction in accordance with the decree on its establishment. I am pursuing this matter until the assembly completes this task and the citizens will then be called to elect their representatives to the People's Assembly after the dissolution of the present assembly.

All preparations should first be made so that the elections will be held in a correct and sound manner. I will exert every possible effort to guarantee holding these general elections before the end of this year. I ask God to grant us success to achieve this in order to complete our application of democracy on all levels.

Question: If you were asked to classify yourself in one of the three political positions that are known as right, middle and left, in which of these three positions would you place yourself and why?

Answer: It is wrong for man to confine himself to the framework of a defined political position or to classify himself as he wishes. The matter of classification should be left for others through their judgment of his policy, stands and beliefs. If you want me to classify myself, I tell you that I am a Yemeni who loves his nation and the large Arab homeland and believes in Islam, the religion of his ancestors and fathers, out of conviction and not out of inheritance and tradition.

Question: How can the Arabian Peninsula and the Gulf be saved from falling into the clutches of international struggle? Do you think this region can continue to remain outside the circle of the game of international struggle?

Answer: In addition to the need to discard their differences, I believe that the region's states should agree to a unified strategy of action aimed at consolidating their independence, guaranteeing their neutrality, warding off all dangers against them and their peoples, and achieving further coordination among themselves. These states should derive their power from their national and pan-Arab character by means of their interaction with their peoples and the whole Arab Nation. Otherwise, I do not think that the region can remain removed from the dangers of the game of international struggle.

Question: What is your opinion of the current Arab situation? Do you see in the Egyptian-Israeli normalization of relations an escalation of the deterioration in the general situation?

Answer: We are sorry for the state of our nation. We have always called for bypassing painful reality and for Arab cooperation in the interest of the unity of Arab ranks so as to achieve the great Arab objective. Out of this belief we supported and still support every call for solidarity among the brothers to confront the difficult stands and the continuous plots against us to obliterate our right to live a life of dignity and pride. We have always believed that unilateral solutions cannot serve peace in the region. Therefore, we are sorry for what is taking place as a result of the normalization of relations between the Zionist enemy and Egypt. We support the Baghdad conference resolutions and all the resolutions on the Palestine issue. We support these resolutions without reservation and with all our potentials.

Question: Some world and Arab news agencies and newspapers talk about lukewarmness in Yemeni-Saudi relations. What is your comment on this? What stage have these relations reached?

Answer: Our relations with fraternal Saudi Arabia are excellent and ideal relations. These relations are developing in the service of bilateral and pan-Arab interests. We stress this and the brothers in Saudi Arabia stress this as well. Wrong and tendentious reports by some news agencies and newspapers aim, in fact, at fishing in muddy waters. These reports are also part of the abortive information campaigns aimed against the Arab stands of solidarity. We appreciate the role of Saudi Arabia and all the Arabs in supporting and backing up the YAR in the various fields.

GOVERNMENT APPROVES 4-YEAR TRADE PROTOCOL WITH PRC

JN131320 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1235 GMT 13 Feb 80 JN

[Text] Ban'a', 13 February--The YAR cabinet approved today the trade protocol recently signed between the YAR and the PRC. The 4-year protocol provides for increasing trade between the two countries.

BRIEFS

NUCLEAR REACTOR IN SAUDI ARABIA--Riyadh--The Petroleum and Minerals University in the eastern district continues its nuclear research in preparation for starting work on the establishment of a new nuclear reactor. Dr Bakr 'Abdallah Bakr, dean of the university, in a statement published today in AR-RIYAD, said that the reactor, which would be the kingdom's first, would serve peaceful purposes, such as water desalination and, in the long-term, electric power generation, especially when oil supplies had been depleted. He said that the university would extract the minerals and materials needed for the reactor from regions in the kingdom where such deposits existed, adding that it was the university's plan to create specialized Saudi cadre and benefit from the scientific expertise of states which had experience in this field. He said that next Thursday he would pay a 10-day visit to India to discuss the possibility of seeking help from Indian experts and technicians at the Scientific Research Institute. He would pay a similar visit to West Germany. [Text] [Riyadh SNA in Arabic 0623 GMT 9 Feb LD]

KHALIL PROTESTS ISRAELI POLICY IN LETTER TO VANCE

NC131510 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1430 GMT 13 Feb 80 NC

[Text] Cairo, 13 February--Prime Minister and Forein Minister Dr Mustafa Khalil today sent an urgent letter to U.S. Secretary of State Cyrus Vance on the Israeli Government's decision to allow Israeli settlers to settle in the city of Hebron in the occupied West Bank.

In the letter, the prime minister points out the seriousness of Israel's measures and the escalation noticeable in the settlement policy which Israel is pursuing in the Palestinian occupied territory.

In his urgent letter, the prime minister draws attention to the serious effects of this policy on the area and on the opportunities for achieving a just peace in it.

The prime minister notes that Israel's illicit policy in the occupied Palestinian territories runs counter to the principle that it is impermissible to seize land through war, as stipulated in UN Resolution 242, which is the basis of the Camp David framework and one of the main bases of the current efforts to establish peace in the area. The prime minister points out that Israel's policy tends to:

1. Increase tension in the area and endanger its security.

2. Contribute to weakening the position of the states in the area in confronting external dangers.

3. Conflicts with the letter and spirit of the Camp David agreements and affects the chances of success of current efforts to establish full autonomy in the West Bank and Gaza as a step toward a just solution of the Palestinian problem.

4. Constitutes a challenge to the American commitment, expressed by President Carter in the latest State of the Union Message, to seek to establish full autonomy in the West Bank and Gaza and resolve all aspects of the Palestinian issue.

In conclusion, Dr Mustafa Khalil demands that the United States take a stern attitude toward Israel's illegal settlement policy--a policy which is completely rejected by Egypt, the other Arab states and the whole world, including the United States.

AUTONOMY SUBCOMMITTEES RESUME MEETINGS 13 FEB

NC131316 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1246 GMT 13 Feb 80 NC

[Excerpts] Cairo, 13 February--The working groups for Palestinian autonomy in the West Bank and Gaza resumed their meetings at the Mena House Hotel in Al-Haram today.

MENA has learned that the viewpoints between the Egyptian and the Israeli sides are still far apart and Egypt adheres to its stand as outlined in the plan, which affirms the necessity of granting autonomy powers to Palestinians in all the Israeli occupied territory in the West Bank, Gaza and Arab Jerusalem. The autonomy will be for 5 years, during which the Palestinians will freely decide on self-determination in accordance with the spirit of the Camp David agreement, which was agreed upon by Egypt, Israel and the United States.

Talks Continue

NC131915 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1848 GMT 13 Feb 80 NC

[Text] Cairo, 13 February--The two subcommittees stemming from the general committee for the autonomy negotiations held two meetings this evening at the Mena House Oberoi Hotel in Al-Haram. The two meetings dealt with the points and principles mentioned in the Egyptian proposals for full autonomy in the West Bank and Gaza.

The Egyptian proposals are based on firm principles, including the need for the Palestinian authority to assume executive, judicial and legislative powers. The Egyptian proposals also call for transferring the Israeli military powers and civilian administration to the Palestinian authority stemming from the elected authority immediately after the conclusion of the free elections.

Subcommittee Heads Meet

NC132016 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1933 GMT 13 Feb 80 NC

[Text] Cairo, 13 February--The heads of the Egyptian, Israeli and American delegations of the subcommittees stemming from the general committee for the autonomy negotiations held a meeting tonight to assess the work of the two subgroups of the two subcommittees dealing with the powers and authorities of the full autonomy and elections in the West Bank and Gaza. During the meeting, a plan was drawn up to insure progress in the future on the clauses on which no agreement has been reached to date.

The subcommittees will continue meeting late into the night in order to give momentum to the committees' work. The meetings will resume tomorrow morning to complete discussions on (?the topics) on the agenda. The Israeli delegation will leave Cairo tomorrow afternoon.

The subcommittees will resume their meetings in Israel on 18 February to prepare a report on their work. The report will then be submitted to the tripartite meeting which will be held by Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Dr Mustafa Khalil, Israeli Interior Minister Yosef Burg and the U.S. presidential envoy to the Middle East, Sol Linowitz. The meeting is expected to be held in a West European country before the end of this month.

MENA has learned that there is still a wide gap between the Egyptian and Israeli stands on the powers of full autonomy for the West Bank and Gaza.

Regarding the elections, a solution to some problems has been reached,but the details must be worked out on such matters as the formation of an international committee to supervise the elections, the electoral system, the method of elections and the number of constituences. [Words indistinct] there are outstanding problems over which the differences remain great, such as the problem of Jerusalem. The Egyptian side insists on holding elections there as well, as it is an inalienable part of the West Bank and what applies to the West Bank should apply to Jerusalem.

U.S. UN ENVOY MCHENRY ARRIVES IN CAIRO

NC131213 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1116 GMT 13 Feb 80 NC

[Text] Cairo, 13 February--Donald McHenry, U.S. chief delegate to the United Nations, arrived in Cairo this morning from Saudi Arabia aboard a special plane for a visit to the Arab Republic of Egypt. The visit will last several days and is part of his tour of a number of states in the Middle East.

He was met at the airport by Foreign Ministry Deputy Director of Protocol Ambassador Ayyub Shararah and U.S. Ambassador Alfred Atherton.

Meeting With Defense Minister

NC131500 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1405 GMT 13 Feb 80 NC

[Excerpt] Cairo, 13 February--Minister of Defense and War Production Gen Kamal Hasan 'Ali met today with Donald McHenry, U.S. chief delegate to the United Nations, who arrived in Cairo earlier today as part of a tour of several countries in the area. The meeting, which lasted about 1 hour, was attended by U.S. Ambassador in Cairo Alfred Atherton.

General 'Ali said later that they reviewed the situation in the Middle East and the question of normalization of relations between Egypt and Israel.

Meeting With Khalil

NC141025 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1000 GMT 14 Feb 80 NC

[Text] Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Dr Mustafa Khalil this morning met with the U.S. chief UN delegate, Mr Donald McHenry. The meeting was attended by U.S. Ambassador in Cairo Alfred Atherton.

Mr Mustafa Khalil stated that he held fruitful discussions with Mr McHenry. These talks dealt with the developments in the Middle East and the efforts exerted to achieve a just peace in the area on the grounds that this is a common goal which we all want to achieve. He said he briefed Mr McHenry on developments in the negotiations on autonomy in the West Bank and Gaza.

Mr Donald McHenry also said he exchanged views with his excellency the prime minister on current international issues, particularly the situation in the Middle East and the need for achieving overall peace in this area of the world.

DEFENSE MINISTER ON MILITARY ISSUES, ISRAELI RELATIONS

NC132127 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2010 GMT 13 Feb 80 NC

[Excerpt] Cairo, 13 February--Minister of Defense and War Production Gen Kamal Hasan 'Ali has stressed that Egypt is eager to have a strong army equipped with sophisticated weapons to consolidate peace and to offer assistance to any Arab state subjected to foreign danger when requested to do so.

At a meeting with foreign correspondents in Cairo at their club in the Hilton Hotel tonight, the defense minister said that the Egyptian military industry will soon produce F-5 fighters. He expressed the hope that the U.S. Congress will soon agree to supply Egyot with F-15 and F-16 fighters.

The defense minister said he would leave for Israel on 25 February to discuss with Weizman the next plan for the Israeli withdrawal from Sinai. They will also discuss the situation regarding Palestinian autonomy in the West Bank and Gaza. General 'Ali said the process of normalizing Egyptian-Israel relations will take place as planned. It will be completed on 26 February. [passage indistinct]

The defense minister added that the Egyptian-U.S. joint military training is within the framework of the cooperation between the two countries. He said Egypt is training some Afghans in training camps.

ASSEMBLY SPEAKER ON ISLAM, SOVIET ACTIONS

NC132206 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2111 GMT 13 Feb 80 NC

[Text] Cairo, 13 February--Speaker of the People's Assembly Dr Sufi Abu Talib has affirmed that adherence to Arabism and Islam is the safety valve by means of which Egypt and the Arab world can face the ideological currents surrounding the area. He added that the Arab countries without Egypt have become a vacuum because Egypt is the heart and brain of the Arab nation.

Dr Sufi Abu Talib made these statements during a meeting today with student leaders and members of the teachers' organization at Cairo University.

The assembly speaker said that the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan was the result of fears generated by the Khomeyni revolution and the restoration of Islamic civilization and culture. This is because the Soviet Union--which is considered to be the fifth Muslim country--has about 50 million Muslims, a fact that has contributed to raising Russian fears. The invasion of Afghanistan aims first at striking the Muslims, and second at reaching the oil sources.

Dr Sufi Abu Talib emphasized that the Soviet Union has abolished the Arabic language and writing and has prohibited the Muslims from visiting their mosques by passing a decree forbidding the employment of anyone who does so.

The assembly speaker discussed the application of Islamic law, saying: We are Muslim Arabs not only in our worship, but also in our culture. Islam in our country is inherent in our culture, which includes the various ideological leaders and is based on forgiveness, not on coercion. It is also based on certain values.

Dr Sufi Abu Talib added that the law should be adjusted so as to agree with Islamic law and that a committee has been formed in the assembly which has been entrusted with legislating these Islamic laws. The speaker affirmed there are certain definitive laws which are not open to adjustment, such as the question of inheritance.

The meeting was attended by the university dean, Dr Ibrahim Badran; the acting deans, Dr Subhi 'Abd al-Hakim and Dr Fawzi Husayn; the minister of state for People's Assembly Affairs, adviser Hilmi 'Abd al-Akhir; and the People's Assembly under secretary, Eng Muhammad Rashwan.

BUTRUS GHALI RETURNS FROM ETHIOPIA, MAKES STATEMENT

NC132100 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2030 GMT 13 Feb 80 NC

[Text] Cairo, 13 February--Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Dr Butrus Ghali arrived in Cairo tonight aboard a special plane from Addis Ababa after leading the Egyptian delegation to the African foreign ministers meeting.

Dr Ghali said that at the conference Egypt affirmed its interest in issues in the southern part of the African Continent and also affirmed that its interest in finding a peaceful settlement of the Middle East question must not be at the expense of assisting the African peoples in the southern part of the continent to achieve their rights to self-determination.

Commenting on the success of the Egyptian draft resolution [words indistinct] observers for Rhodesia, he said: It shows the Egyptian role in the African Continent and that the African states believe that Egypt has a special mission in the continent.

SERVICE TO SOVIET MILITARY AIRCRAFT REPORTEDLY CONTINUES

TA121911 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 12 Feb 80 TA

[Text] Egypt is continuing to supply daily ground services to Soviet military aircraft on their way from the Soviet Union to Aden and Ethiopia. Our monitor Mikha'el Gurdus has learned that the reference is to military cargo and passenger planes stopping for refueling in Egyptian airports, mainly in Cairo. The number of Soviet aircraft flying over Egypt en route to Aden has increased in the last few days. As is known, Aden is a Soviet military base in the Arabian Peninsula.

SOVIET SHIP WITH CUBAN SOLDIERS TRANSITS CANAL TO ADEN

NC130920 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0800 GMT 13 Feb 80 NC

[Text] Cairo, 13 February--The Soviet passenger ship Leonid (Sibonov) transited the Suez Canal yesterday on its way from Havana to Aden. It was carrying 1,200 Cuban soldiers in its hold. This ship has for some time been used to move troops between Havana and Aden.

Commenting on this report, the newspaper AL-AKHBAR today says: The Soviet presence in Aden has intensified and the aim is to build military bases for Soviet, Cuban and East German forces. The paper asks: What is the meaning of this Soviet military buildup in the south of the Arabian Peninsula, and what is the next Soviet military adventure?

BRIEFS

AIR DEFENSE CHIEF OF STAFF--Defense Minister General Kamal Hasan 'Ali has issued a decision appointing Maj Gen Majdi Ahmad Ahmad Sulayman as chief of staff of air defense. Maj Gen Majdi Sulayman graduated from the War College in February 1949. He is 50 years old and has held command positions in the antiaircraft artillery forces. His previous position was that of commander of an air defense unit. He graduated from the Higher War Academy in 1979. He holds the Military Duty Medal. [Text] [Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic 31 Jan 80 p 1 LD]

DECISION ON NEW PASSPORTS--Cairo, 9 February--In its Sunday edition, OCTOBER magazine reports that the Egyptian Interior Ministry has decided to abolish all passports currently in use and replace them with new ones that will be difficult to forge. The magazine says that this decision will be implemented soon. [Text] [Cairo MENA in Arabic 0714 GMT 9 Feb 80 NC]

FINNISH LOAN FOR ENERGY PROJECTS--Cairo, Feb 9 (MENA)--Finland has agreed to offer a 5-million Finnish Mark grant to Egypt, in addition to a loan worth 4 million and 200 thousand marks to be refunded over 50 years with a 0.75 percent interest to finance electricity and energy projects inserted in the five-year plan of the Ministry of Electricity and Energy. This was stated by Mahir Abaza, first under secretary at the ministry. He added the loan will be invested infinancing the purchase of electric transformer stations and land cables for the electrification of the countryside during the coming 3 years. He added the ministry will exploit the grant in financing technical studies of designs of Egyptian engineers for transformer stations in Egypt as well as researches for improving the towers of transport networks and distribution of electric current. Abaza noted that a sum of half-a-million marks of the grant will be used for studies of regional control of Alexandria Governorate. [Text] [Cairo MENA in English 1525 GMT 9 Feb 80 NC]

IRISH FOREIGN MINISTER LENIHAN PAYS VISIT

JN111900 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1745 GMT 11 Feb 80 JN

[Excerpt] Baghdad, 11 February--Irish Foreign Minister Brian Lenihan and an accompanying delegation arrived here today on a visit of several days.

Minister Lenihan said he is carrying a personal message to RCC Vice Chairman 'Izzat Ibrahim from Irish Prime Minister Charles Haughey. The message deals with developing economic bilateral relations. Lenihan added that he will hold talks with Iraqi officials on strengthening relations in the economic, oil and technical sectors and on means of developing these relations.

Meets Vice President

JN121337 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1230 GMT 12 Feb 80 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 12 February--Vice President Taha Muhyi ad-Din Ma'ruf today received Irish Foreign Minister Brian J. Lenihan and the delegation accompanying him. Mr Lenihan conveyed a verbal message from the Irish prime minister and expressed his government's wish to widen the scope of cooperation between both countries.

During the meeting, which was attended by State Minister for Foreign Affairs and acting Foreign Minister Hamid 'Alwan, bilateral relations and ways of developing them were discussed.

The Irish minister arrived here yesterday.

Meets Acting Foreign Minister

JN121937 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1930 GMT 12 Feb 80 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 12 February--Hamid 'Alwan, minister of state for foreign affairs and acting foreign minister, met here this evening with Irish Foreign Minister Brian J. Lenihan and the delegation accompanying him. They discussed bilateral relations and ways to further develop them. They also reviewed the situation in the Arab area and other international issues.

Departs Following Visit

JN130833 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0810 GMT 13 Feb 80 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 13 February--Irish Foreign Minister Brian Lenihan and the members of his delegation left Baghdad today following a 3-day visit. Mr Lenihan described the talks he had with officials here as having been fruitful and helpful in regard to strengthening relations between the two countries. He said that his country hopes to expand its relations with Iraq, especially in the technical and economic fields.

VENEZUELAN PRESIDENT HERRERA, DELEGATION PAY VISIT

JN131259 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1200 GMT 13 Feb 80 JN

[Excerpts] In response to the invitation of President Saddam Husayn, Venezuelan President Luis Herrera Campins arrived in Baghdad this afternoon on a 2-day visit to Iraq. The Venezuelan president was accorded a big official reception at Baghdad airport headed by President Saddam Husayn.

The Venezuelan president is accompanied by a delegation consisting of Dr Jose Alberto Zambrano Velasco, minister of foreign affairs; Gen Luis Enrique Rangel, minister of national defense; Dr Humberto Calderon Berti, minister of energy and mines; Dr Leopoldo Diaz Bruzual, minister of state and president of the Venezuelan Investment Fund; Gen Rafael Alfonso, president of the Venezuelan National Oil Company; Dr Manuel Perez (Guerdo), presidential adviser on international economic affairs; and several senior government officials.

Defense Ministers Meet

JN131723 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1635 GMT 13 Feb 80 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 13 February--Staff Gen 'Adnan Khayrallah, RCC member and defense minister, met here this evening with Venezuelan National Defense Minister Gen Luis Enrique Rangel. At the meeting, which was held in the Defense Ministry, they reviewed bilateral relations and ways to strengthen them.

General Rangel arrived in Baghdad earlier today with the delegation accompanying Venezuelan President Luis Herrera Campins.

Talks Begin

JN131842 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1740 GMT 13 Feb 80 JN

[Excerpts] Baghdad, 13 February--Official talks between President Saddam Husayn and Venezuelan President Luis Herrera Campins began today at the Republican Palace.

During the meeting, President Saddam Husayn affirmed that today's world is developing past and becoming more and more complex, which necessitates continuously exchanging viewpoints in order to strengthen relations of cooperation. President Saddam Husayn added that the Venezuelan president's visit comes within this framework.

President Saddam Husayn added that our meetings, exchanging viewpoints and bolstering cooperation will enable us to contribute to building civilization. President Saddam Husayn said that we appreciate this visit and regard it from the vantage point of Iraqi-Venezuelan relations and our humanitarian roles.

The talks dealt with exchanging viewpoints on the most significant international events and developments, fields of bilateral cooperation and ways to bolster this cooperation in the interests of the two fraternal peoples.

INA has learned that the 2-hour talks centered on cooperation and bolstering solidarity within OPEC in order to maintain its unity and enable it to confront the misleading propaganda by some of the industrial states' mass media: propaganda directed against the oil-exporting states which aimed at blaming these states for the fabricated world crisis.

The talks were attended on the Iraqi side by RCC member, Deputy Prime Minister and Defense Minister 'Adnan Khayrallah, and RCC member and Oil Minister Tayih 'Abd al-Karim.

The talks were attended on the Venezuelan side by Minister of Foreign Affairs Alberto Velasco Zambrano, Minister of Energy and Mines Dr Humberto Berti Calderon and Minister of National Defense Gen Luis Enrique Rangel.

Depart 14 Feb

JN141012 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1205 GMT 14 Feb 80 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 14 February--Venezuelan President Luis Herrera Campins and his accompanying delegation left Baghdad for Vienna at noon today at the end of a 2-day visit to Iraq. The Venezuelan president was accorded an official sendoff at Baghdad airport, in which President Saddam Husayn participated. President Saddam Husayn had accompanied his guest President Luis Herrera Campins from his residence at the Baghdad palace to the Baghdad international airport. Several RCC members, ministers, top officials and Latin American ambassadors accredited to Iraq also participated in the sendoff.

FORMER LEBANESE PRIME MINISTER SALAM ARRIVES 12 FEB

JN121104 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1030 GMT 12 Feb 80 JN

[Excerpt] Baghdad, 12 February--Former Lebanese Prime Minister Sa'ib Salam arrived here today on a visit of several days to Iraq. In a statement to INA, Sa'ib Salam said that he will hold talks with Iraqi officials on the pan-Arab charter declared by President Saddam Husayn on the 17th anniversary of the 8 February revolution. Talks will also deal with means to strengthen bilateral relations.

Meets Deputy Premier

JN121908 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1830 GMT 12 Feb 80 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 12 February--Tariq 'Aziz, RCC member and deputy prime minister, received former Lebanese Prime Minister Sa'ib Salam this evening. Talks centered on current Arab developments and the serious circumstances caused by recent events. They also discussed the situation in fraternal Lebanon.

Sa'ib Salam highlighted the Iraqi revolutionary experience and praised the extensive development in Iraq. He also praised the national declaration which was made by President Saddam Husayn on the 17th anniversary of the 8 February revolution.

Sa'ib Salam arrived in Baghdad today on a visit of several days.

Confers With President

JN132035 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2005 GMT 13 Feb 80 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 13 February--President Saddam Husayn received in the Republican Palace this evening former Lebanese Prime Minister Sa'ib Salam.

During the meeting, which was attended by RCC member and Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz, talks were held on the current Arab situation in light of new world events. The talks also dealt with the latest developments in Lebanon and consolidating the unity and steadfastness of Lebanon in the face of the imperialist and Zionist schemes aimed at disrupting its unity and striking at its nationalist movement.

It will be recalled that Sa'ib Salam arrived in Baghdad yesterday on a visit of several days.

FOREIGN MINISTER HAMMADI VIEWS RELATIONS WITH EUROPE

LD131404 Hamburg DPA in German 1324 GMT 13 Feb 80 LD

[Text] Bonn--At the end of his Bonn visit, Sa'dun Hammadi, Iraqi foreign minister, told a news conference in Bonn today that Iraq favored broad economic and political cooperation between the European Community and all Arab League member states. Hammadi, the first Iraqi foreign minister to confer in Bonn with Federal Chancellor Helmut Schmidt and Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher, rejected any kind of great-power interference in the Arab world.

While not directly rejecting the idea favored by Foreign Minister Genscher of close cooperation between the European Community and the Arab Gulf states, including Iraq, he clearly preferred cooperation within a wider geographical area. The Arab states, he said, were prepared to secure West European oil supplies on a long-term basis if Europe worked for a solution on Arab lines of the problem of the Palestinian and contributed to the Arab world's economic development.

In his Bonn talks, views had been close or had coincided on many points. He found understanding by his German partners for the Arab countries' wish that the U.S.-USSR conflict should not spread to the Arab world. He referred to the Arab states' unanimous condemnation of the Soviet Union at their recent summit meeting in Islamabad, which had adopted a resultuion denying military bases to the great powers and refusing military cooperation with them.

Returns From Europe

JN132025 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1945 GMT 13 Feb 80 JN

[Excerpt] Baghdad, 13 February--Foreign Minister Dr Sa'dun Hammadi returned to Baghdad this evening at the end of his week-long visit to Belgium and the FRG.

Dr Hammadi said the talks he held in Brussels and Bonn and with the EEC officials dealt with ways to strengthen relations between Iraq and the EEC states as well as with the need for economic and cultural cooperation in transfer of technical expertise and results of scientific research and modern inventions so as to develop human capabilities.

SAUDI KING CABLES SUPPORT FOR PRESIDENT'S PAN-ARAB CHARTER

JN131216 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1150 GMT 13 Feb 80 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 13 February--Saudi King Khalid ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz al 'Sa'ud has expressed his support for the national charter announced by President Saddam Husayn on 8 February.

The Saudi monarch said today in a cable to President Saddam Husayn: The announcement of the principles of the national charter to organize relations among Arab countries has affected us deeply. The charters principles agree with the policy of strengthening the Arab and Muslim stand and of consolidating security and stability in the Arab world, especially in the present circumstances.

The Saudi monarch expressed the hope that the Arab countries will abide by what is included in the charter and that it will be applied and executed in the service of the Arab and Muslim nation.

SPANISH PREMIER SUAREZ MEETS WITH CROWN PRINCE

JN131707 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 13 Feb 80 JN

[Text] His Highness Crown Prince Hasan met this morning with the Spanish prime minister and the delegation accompanying him. The meeting was attended by his excellency the prime minister and the minister of state for foreign affairs.

The discussion at the meeting focused on the dangers inherent in the Israeli settlement of the occupied Arab territories for the entire Middle East area. His highness the crown prince refuted Israel's claims that it is essential for its security to retain and control Arab land and resources. His highness said: What is happening in Jerusalem, Nabulus and Hebron indicates that Israel is applying the Zionist designs to Judaize Arab territories, particularly the holy city, and change their geographic and demographic features.

His highness hailed the steadfastness of the people in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip against the Israeli machinations and pressures which the enemy is exerting in an attempt to tighten the grip on the public with the intention of evicting the land of its rightful residents and replacing them with new foreign immigrants.

His highness also praised the total and close coordination between Jordan and the PLO to strengthen this steadfastness.

The Spanish prime minister displayed special interest in the circumstances of the Israeli occupation of the Arab territories and in Jordan's stand on the so-called self-rule plan, which resulted from the Camp David accord.

Leaves 13 Feb

JN131706 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 13 Feb 80 JN

[Excerpts] Spanish Prime Minister Adolfo Suarez and the delegation accompanying him left Amman this afternoon following a 2-day visit to Jordan. During the visit, the Spanish prime minister met with His Majesty King Husayn and His Highness Crown Prince Hasan. He also held talks with his excellency the prime minister on the consolidation of bilateral relations.

The Spanish prime minister was seen off by Prime Minister His Excellency ash-Sharif 'Abd al-Hamid Sharaf, the ministers, the dean of the diplomatic corps in Amman, the Jordanian ambassador in Spain, the Spanish ambassador in Amman, the deputy commander in chief of the armed forces and commander of the Royal Air Force, and several senior officials.

In a statement to reporters in the airport, Mr Suarez expressed his gratitude to His Majesty King Husayn, His Highness Crown Prince Hasan and his excellency the prime minister for the warm welcome and hospitality accorded him during his visit to Jordan. He praised the cooperative relations and the relationship which link the two fraternal countries, a relationship which he describes as special and distinctive.

GOVERNMENT ENTRY INTO AUTONOMY TALKS DENIED

JN130928 Amman AD-DUSTUR in Arabic 13 Feb 80 pp 1, 17 JN

[Editorial: "Don't They Want to Understand?"]

[Text] Despite Jordan's clear and frank stand regarding the Camp David treaty, a stand which Jordan took and did not hesitate to reaffirm, explain, clarify and insist on from the day that these accords were announced; despite this fundamental and unswerving stand, the Camp David parties, especially the Israeli side, deceive themselves and others by alleging that Jordan "is on the verge of joining the autonomy talks" and that Jordan "is waiting for the right moment to sit at the conference table." The latest information from Cairo, Washington and Tel Aviv point beyond any doubt to the fact that Jordan is ready to enter the negotiations.

As weeks and months pass by and no changes occur in the Jordanian stand, the information media of the Camp David group are silenced for a while, only to start repeating the same tune when a certain occasion arises.

The latest tune of the joint Israeli-Egyptian information media on the role they want Jordan to play in the negotiations is what AL-AHRAM published about Eizer Weizman's invitation to His Majesty King Husayn to address the Israeli Knesset like President as-Sadat did, which would be a preamble to Jordan joining in the autonomy talks. Radio Israel jumped at the opportunity of this ridiculous invitation to carry a lengthy commentary about its characteristics and benefits to Jordan, going on to show how it is in Jordan's interests to join the negotiations before it is too late!

We thank Radio Israel for its profound concern over Jordan's interests but we advise it first to take notice of the Palestinian people and reach an understanding with them, since Jordan knows its own interests best and does not need the advice of Israel or Radio Israel.

The Camp David parties, especially Israel, do not want to understand that Jordan's rejection of the autonomy project is based on unchangeable and nonnegotiable principles. Jordan wants peace but is not ready to join a game that aims at aborting peace, thwarting Palestinian rights and securing Israeli occupation of Palestinian lands forever. There is no possibility of Jordan entering negotiations that assume the West Bank and Gaza to be Israeli territories, which Jews have the right to buy and settle in. There is no possibility of Jordan entering negotiations that stem from the assumption that Jerusalem is "Israel's eternal capital," that make Israeli withdrawal a negotiable subject, or that impair the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination.

Jordan cannot commit the same folly committed by President as-Sadat when he bargained on the Palestinian's destiny on their behalf. These are basic principles that were blessed by the international community and international resolutions. However, Jordan cannot possibly, at any time, make these principles subject to negotiation.

The strangest thing about this subject is that at a time when American and Egyptian sources and Israeli papers express their pessimism concerning the future of autonomy negotiations and the hopelessness of their success, some Israeli leaders insist on calling on Jordan to join the talks, as if they only want Jordan to be a "witness" to an operation that has already been condemned to failure and breakdown.

The road to peace starts by fulfilling the legitimate aspirations of the Palestinian people and by reaching an understanding with their leadership as represented by the PLO. Failure of the Camp David sides to convince the Palestinians to accept the poisonous bait leads them to self-deception, hoping that Jordan will fill in the role of the Palestinians. Alas! Jordan is more intelligent and honorable than to accept such a role. Anyway, there is nothing to lure it to join the procession of failure!

MINISTER OF STATE IBRAHIM COMMENTS ON ISRAELI MEASURES

JN132129 Amman Domestic Television Service in English 2000 GMT 13 Feb 80 JN

[Text] Minister of State Hasan Ibrahim, head of the Executive Office for Occupied Land Affairs, said today that the recent events in Hebron prove Israeli long-term plans of settling in the city.

In a statement to the JORDAN NEWS AGENCY, Mr Ibrahim said it was clear from the Israeli Cabinet's decision allowing Israelis to reside in Hebron and other aggressive acts, that it intends to achieve this goal. The minister of state cited examples of Israeli moves aimed at implementing its plans: Firstly, imposing a curfew on Hebron and supporting the Zionist extremist Gush Emunim movement. Secondly, attacks on the Ibrahimi Mosque and desecration of its sanctity, preventing the inhabitants of Hebron from praying in the mosque and students from attending their schools.

Mr Ibrahim said the government has sent a detailed report to its permanent representative at the United Nations requesting him to raise the issue with the secretary general.

PRIME MINISTER RETURNS TO BEIRUT FROM SYRIA

NC132055 Bierut Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 13 Feb 80 NC

[Text] At 2115 Prime Minister Dr Salim Al-Huss and the delegation that accompanied him to Damascus arrived at Beirut International Airport. The prime minister held talks in Damascus with Syrian President Hafiz Al-Asad and high-ranking Syrian commanders. At 1630 President Al-Asad received Prime Minsister Al-Huss and met with him for 4 hours. During this meeting with the Syrian president, Prime Minister al-Huss, Defense Minister Joseph Skaf and Minister of Public Works and Transport Butrus Harb reviewed the situation in Lebanon and the Arab region. The discussions, which were conducted in two sessions, focused on Lebanese-Syrian relations and ways to bolster them. The first session started at 1630 and included, on the Lebanese side, Prime Minster al-Huss and Ministers Skaf and Harb. Attending on the Syrian side were President al-Asad, Prime Minister Dr 'Abd ar-Ra'uf al-Kasm, Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, Defense Minister Gen Mustafa Talas and Education Minister Muhammad Najib as-Sayyid Ahmad. This extensive meeting, which lasted 3 hours, was followed by a 1-hour private meeting between President al-Asad and Prime Minister al-Huss.

After these two sessions, Prime Minister al-Huss told our correspondent Samir Mansur, who accompanied the Lebanese delegation: The meetings we held in fraternal Syria with President Hafiz al-Asad were very useful. During these meetings we dealt with the various subjects that are of interest to Lebanon and that reflect relations between Syria and Lebanon--including the situation arising from the decision to withdraw the Arab Deterrent Forces [ADF] currently deployed in the Lebanese capital. His Excellency President al-Asad affirmed Syria's interest in the goals that prompted the ADF to come to Lebanon, especially the preservation of Lebanon's unity, security and safety. President al-Asad also affirmed that Syria does not want such a decision to lead to a negative security situation. Prime Minister al-Huss added: We also discussed various political topics of bilateral interest in this delicate stage through which Lebanon is passing. Our discussions were held in a candid, fraternal and friendly atmosphere. Our views concerning these subjects were congruent, particularly on the need to move quickly to achieve a national detente and to draw up a general security plan which would include various Lebanese areas and embody the necessary coordination between the legitimate powers represented by the army, the ADF and the security forces in order to enhance the legitimate authority's control of the various areas in Lebanon and to consolidate the security situation there.

Prime Minister al-Huss added: During our talks we found complete understanding. It is only natural for us to continue our contacts with Syrian officials on all these subjects and on various levels in order to attain the required results. After arriving in Beirut, Prime Minister al-Huss phoned President Ilyas Sarkis and briefed him on the outcome of his talks in Damascus.

PHALANGIST OFFICIAL COMMENTS ON RIZQ KIDNAPING

NC131305 (Clandestine) Voice of Lebanon in Arabic to Lebanon 1215 GMT 13 Feb 80 NC

[Text] Commenting on the kidnaping of Deputy Edmond Rizq, Shaykh Bashir al-Jumayyil said: This incident is extremely serious. In answering it we will face up to the level for which we are known and we will use similar ways. Furthermore, we regard ourselves free to take appropriate measures to sever the hand that has planned and implemented this incident. We also know this hand's identity. Patriarch Khuraysh has talked to the present of the republic by telephone. He has also contacted a number of offocial quarters. The patriarch has expressed his deep regret over this serious incident and has urged all officials to do their utmost to insure the safe return of Deputy Rizq.

Kidnaped Deputy 'Safe'

NC140909 (Clandestine) Voice of Lebanon in Arabic to Lebanon 0815 GMT 14 Feb 80 NC

[Text] It was reported this morning that deputy Edmond Rizq is fine and that efforts are continuing for his return, particularly since the place where he is held is now known. His car was found in Ar-Rawshah at midnight.

VOL: NUMBER OF IRANIAN VOLUNTEERS DECLINES

NC131401 (Clandestine) Voice of Lebanon in Arabic to Lebanon 1215 GMT 13 Feb 80 NC

[Text] In Beirut, a source from the Iranian Embassy has announced that the number of the Iranian volunteers has dropped from 225 volunteers to 77. The source said: These volunteers have left because of a difference with those who had summoned them over the basic task: fighting Israel and not being used for political purposes.

FRENCH MILITARY ATTACHE WOUNDED IN BEIRUT

NC140635 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0530 GMT 14 Feb 80 NC

[Excerpt] Interest continues in yesterday's incident at the Henry Shihab Barracks as a result of which a number of people were wounded including the military attache of the French Embassy who happened to be passing by at the time. The incident was contained.

'FREE LABANON' SEVERS RELATIONS WITH IRISH CONTINGENT

NC131504 Marj 'Uyun Voice of Hope in Arabic 1400 GMT 13 Feb 80 NC

[Text] A spokesman for Major Haddad, the commander of Free Lebanon, said yesterday that Free Labanon has severed all relations with the Irish contingent in the wake of Ireland's recognition of the (?sabotage) liberation organization and invitation to Yasir 'Arafat, the chairman of the so-called PLO, to pay an official visit to Ireland.

The spokesman further said that Major Haddad and the Free Lebanon authorities are appraising the possibility of asking the Irish contingent to withdraw from UNIFIL because of the recognition by their country of the aforementioned organization--a recognition that has shaken the basis for mutual confidence.

BEIRUT RADIO SAYS SITUATION TENSE IN NORTH

NC131710 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 13 Feb 80 NC

[Text] In the north, security reports tonight indicated that the atmosphere is still tense in the outskirts of All-Batrun and the Bsharri district. No reports have been received about any casualties in the afternoon.

VOL REPORTS UNDECLARED CEASE-FIRE IN SOUTH

NC131352 (Clandestine) Voice of Lebanon in Arabic to Lebanon 1215 GMT 13 Feb 80 NC

[Text] Officials of the UNIFIL command in the south have been in contact following the meetings which were held between these officials and the command of the Palestinian and leftist forces. These contacts have led to an unofficial and undeclared cease-fire which came into effect as of 0900 today.

NATIONAL PROGRESSIVE FRONT ISSUES STATEMENT 13 FEB

JN132142 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1915 GMT 13 Feb 80 JN

[13 February statement issued by the Central Command of the National Progressive Front in Syria--read by announcer]

[Excerpts] Brother citizens, the Central Command of the National Progressive Front has always been in the habit of addressing you to present a picture of its ideas and assessments whenever it thought your supreme national and pan-Arab interests required this. The last address made for this purpose was its statement of 26 September 1979 which contained a comprehensive analytical study of the domestic situation and the shortcomings of this situation and the solutions and measures needed to tackle them.

We do not think that any political leadership in the developing world has ever faced its people to speak about its errors with such frankness, courage and sincerity.

We were inspired by this spirit, courage and sincerity in our last address to the people. Since that day to date, many events have taken place in our country, most important of which are:

1. The convocation of the 16-day Seventh Regional Congress of the Ba'th Party during which the country's domestic, Arab and international policies were formulated in light of studies made and the results reached. The congress passed a series of resolutions and recommendations in response to the hopes of the public and in realization of its aspirations. The congress concluded its work by electing a new regional command which was received by a lot of optimism and hope by our public opinion.

2. The formation of a new cabinet made up of a select group of prominent specialists of all walks of life to shoulder the task of implementing the resolutions and recommendations and making them a concrete reality in the life of citizens.

3. The issuance of decrees providing for increases in the salaries of civil servants, pensioners and workers with limited incomes.

4. The penalities imposed on supply violations and on those who tamper with prices and violate the instructions of the supplies ministry were basically amended in order to control prices and put an end to high costs so that the gain made by citizens as a result of the pay increases will not be devoured by this high level of prices.

5. The necessary legislation was enacted to stop the activity of brokers and middlemen in state departments and institutions and to end the activity of parasitic capital and encourage productive capital in the fields of industry and agriculture.

6. The powers of the State Security Court were confined to crimes against state security. All the other cases were referred to the competent courts.

7. Martial law was suspended, except in special cases related to the security and safety of the state.

8. Orders were issued to competent quarters to implement court sentences irrespective of their type and duration.

9. Special committees were formed to study the files of those who are committed to trial in order to take immediate measures to release those whose innocence is confirmed and refer others to court. Scores of those who were committed to trial have been released thus far. These committees will conclude their work in the coming few days.

All this has been for the sake of further freedom and democracy so that our people will be able to exercise their right to responsible freedom and so as to provide a democratic atmosphere which we believe is the sole means to mobilize the potentials of the citizens in the battle of destiny and to fortify our people against the intrigues and conspiracies being hatched against the Arab nation and its future.

10. Special committees were formed to study the status, economic situation and administrative structures of public sector companies and factories, in order to take all necessary measures to improve them and to remove all obstacles that impede increased production, to include the dismissal of employees who are deficient and negligent and their replacement with qualified, conscientious people.

11. A series of instructions and directives were issued to apply the law to all without exception, and to control the conduct of all those working in civilian and military state establishments, so that the violations and excesses about which the citizens complained can be eradicated, leading to equality among the citizens in terms of their responsibilities and rights.

12. The Central Command will soon further develop the National Progressive Front. This will enable the front to represent the broadest spectrum of the masses and to sincerely express the multifaceted national trends, to shore up their role and effectiveness and to enable them to perform their duties as well as possible.

Brother citizens, our accomplishments and measures, some of which we have just outlined, are merely broadlines and individual examples of what is occurring in our country today, as part of an all-round transformation process. We hope this process will expand to include every aspect of this homeland and every issue pertaining to the homeland and citizens, until all citizens feel satisfied with and assured about their present and future, as well as feeling that this homeland belongs to them. Every citizen will be given equal treatment, depending on the extent of sacrifices and efforts each is devoting to the homeland. This broad hope can only be achieved by concerting all good and sincere efforts and can only be realized through efforts exerted by the state and the people.

Brother citizens, the onslaught engineered by U.S. imperialism and world Zionism against our Arab area is currently unprecedented in terms of its activism. It is directed primarily against Syria, because Syria has its own distinguished role in the Front of Steadfastness and Confrontation against U.S. imperialism and its protege, Israel, and also because of Syria's long history in resisting the U.S. schemes of domination and the Zionist designs.

Syria has been and still is the pioneer of the pan-Arab cause and Arab struggle. Syria continues to play its role in valiantly resisting the U.S.-Israeli-As-Sadat plots. We would not be exaggerating to say that had it not been for Syria and its prominent and principled role in marshaling the pan-Arab forces and the Arab public opinion against the Camp David treaty and As-Sadat's treason, the pan-Arab cause--the issue of Arab-Zionist struggle--would have been obliterated and distorted. In addition, the Camp David plots would have expanded to include other states.

Despite Syria's strenuous efforts to thwart the Camp David policy, the Arab countries, which have opposed this policy and expressed solidarity in their desire to wreck this criminal alliance, have thus far, for various reasons, failed to prevent As-Sadat from carrying the Egyptian people away from the Arab fold. As-Sadat even managed to normalize relations between Egypt and Israel, raising the flags of Zionism in the heart of Cairo, the capital of Arabism, the fort of freedom, socialism and unity and the fort of immortal leader Jamal 'Abd an-Nasir.

Brother citizens, this is Syria's course, about which we will never bargain. We will never relinquish our people's rights, a single particle of our great homeland's soil or our people's sacrifices. We will stand fast, regardless of the difficulties.

[Signed] The Central Command of the National Progressive Front, 14 February 1980.

LEBANESE PRIME MINISTER ARRIVES 13 FEB

JN131141 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1115 GMT 13 Feb 80 JN

[Text] Lebanese Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss arrived in Damascus today at the head of an official delegation on a visit to Syria, during which he will hold talks with officials on the current situation in the Lebanese arena.

In a statement to reporters, Dr Salim al-Huss said that the purpose of his visit is to reach practical steps which would implement the distinctive relations linking the two fraternal states and their common pan-Arab and national interests.

Office Talks Begin

JN131331 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 13 Feb 80 JN

[Excerpts] Damascus--At 1215 today, the official talks began between the Syrian side under Prime Minister Dr Abd ar-Ra'uf al-Kasm and the Lebanese side under Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss.

The meeting was attended on the Syrian side by 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, deputy prime minister and foreign affairs minister; Gen Mustafa Talas, defense minister and deputy commander in chief of the armed forces; and Muhammad Najib as-Sayyid Ahmad, education minister.

The meeting was attended on the Lebanese side by National Defense and Agriculture Minister Joseph Skaf and the Minister of National Education Butrus Harb.

Answering a question posed by reporters on the Syrian stand regarding the redeployment or withdrawal of the forces from Lebanon, Prime Minister 'Abd ar-Ra'uf al-Kasm said: The decision to redeploy the forces has already been made, as you all very well know. Naturally, such a decision will not be retracted. However, we always take into consideration fraternal Lebanon's interest in any step we take.

The prime minister added that these talks are aimed at coordinating stands and securing Lebanon's interest.

The prime minister said: As Dr al-Huss pointed out, we are always optimistic in every meeting between us.

ALGERIA

U.S. WARNED AGAINST 'PLAYING WITH FIRE' ON ARMS DEAL

LD131001 Algiers EL MOUDHAJID in French 1-2 Feb 80 p 7 LD

[APS commentary: "Playing with Fire"]

[Text] Algiers--The United States is planning to supply Morocco with military equipment worth around $250 million. According to a U.S. Congress report this sale of modern weapons will be made on the grounds that Morocco is a good friend of the United States and that it must be helped in "defending" its territory.

The U.S. experts should examine the "friendship" linking the two countries a little more seriously.

If the Moroccan people could express their view in this affair they would demand respect, not weapons, from the United States. This would be equally beneficial for U.S. foreign policy since it would prevent it from one day being encumbered with an all too embarrassing friend in the shape of Hassan II.

Does the United States need another lesson after Somoza and Reza Pahlavi? As regards the defense of Moroccan territory, supposedly a cause for concern to the U.S. administration, the U.S. leaders should know that Morocco is not threatened with any "Green march," quite the reverse. It is this country which is engaging in misplaced warmongering. Warmongering directed principally against the Saharan people but also against half of Africa, as the last two decades have shown the world. Indeed, Moroccan expansionism will go down in history as one of the phenomena which has destabilized the situation in North Africa. Encouraging this phenomenon is playing with fire--a fire which burns even superpowers.

Unless they were politically blind, nobody would dream of following the king of Morocco in a sphere where he is playing his last cards. Nonetheless, Washington ought to realize that the king of Morocco has insulted the African leaders and their peoples by remarks which are not in keeping with elementary courtesy--remarks containing tinges of prejudice which have no place in this world, especially where state authority is supposed to be exercised.

Even if this U.S.-Moroccan friendship does not go so far as to include King Hassan II's personal views, not to mention espousing his racism, there are African political documents which even the United States cannot flout. There is a political resolution taken by the African Continent at the highest level--by an OAU summit--which clearly sets out the approach to be followed as regards the Western Sahara problem. This resolution was certainly not taken lightly. This document was adopted after a great deal of work with the collaboration of several authentic African leaders. This resolution has the force of law and the United States should heed it if it wants its interests to be taken into account.

The elements of solutions contained in this resolution were adopted and upheld by the sixth nonalined summit conference and by the UN General Assembly. In other words the Third World's full weight is behind the Saharan people. Therefore, why does Washington find it difficult to understand this?

Everybody knows that every U.S. President, however powerful he might be, is subjected to pressures which force him to take certain lines. In particular the "Zionist Lobby's" power in the U.S. Congress is no secret. Moreover, the Zionist have shown that they can scuttle plans such as the most-favored-nation clause for the USSR or the SALT agreements. They have also shown that they can make the American people and their presidents swallow anything. It is well known that Hassan II played a leading role in the Begin-As-Sadat reconciliation.

The adoption of a plan like this one to sell arms to the kingdom of Morocco bears witness to the use of these occult forces, especially since the politician Jimmy Carter can tolerate and even use these political levers, as in this case, in a local balancing act and with election considerations in mind.

Jimmy Carter the statesman whom history will judge ruthlessly cannot play with the American people's long-term interests. For if the U.S. President, in his attempt to enlist the support of a willing Hassan II in cold-war intrigues, sacrifices the Saharan people's legitimate right to self-determination, he will in fact have trampled on the American people's rights.

Such a deliberate and dual violation of a universal principle in order to use Morocco as a pawn will turn into a desert mirage whether it be in the Western Sahara, East-West relations or in the Israeli-Arab context.

FRANCO-GERMAN 'ALINEMENT' WITH WASHINGTON CRITICIZED

LD111515 Algiers ASH-SHA'S in Arabic 6 Feb 80 p 1 LD

[Editorial: "The Confrontation and Its Repercussions"]

[Text] The Western camp is persistently seeking to escalate international tension, thus confirming its determination to reap the fruits of the present situation as quickly as possible after winning the propaganda and diplomatic campaign.

The objective of this escalation is clear in that it is aimed at regaining Western positions in the Third World and tightening its hold on raw materials, particularly the Arab oil-producing countries.

This stand by the Western camp is a strong, though indirect, reaction to the national liberation movement's triumphs in Africa and West Asia although it may appear an immediate reaction to events in Iran and Afghanistan.

The results of the Franco-German summit announced yesterday are an indication that the NATO alliance has turned its back on the policy of international detente in a serious manner, contrary to what some observers had been expecting.

Some observers expected an independent European stand that would salvage the policy of detente, but instead the Paris summit deviated from the right course, resorted to one-up-manship and declared its total alinement with Washington. It threatened the Soviet Union in the style of President Carter and once again confirmed its "allegiance under the banner of the alliance and obligations to it" within the alliance framework.

The escalation of East-West confrontation would not have concerned us had it not been for its immediate impact on our countries. While Arab oil represents the jugular of the Western economy the great Arab Maghreb falls within the vital region for the NATO alliance as an area essential for the defense of the old continent.

In this light the Franco-German coordination and the active role it is playing appear to be a direct threat to the Arab liberation movement. This is confirmed by the activities of Bonn and Paris in our region in rapid response to Washington's call for "effective participation in defending Western interests."

France volunteered to send a "special command" force to help crush the mutiny movement in the holy mosque [in Mecca] and the FRG is preparing to send "antisubversion" experts to the same area in order to help with the formation of special units for this purpose.

France also reacted in a suspicious manner to the events in Qafsah and hastened to dispatch naval units to flex their muscles near the Libyan coast. It is, therefore, kindling the fires of conflict between brothers as part of the new colonialist strategy based on the "divide and rule" principle.

In view of these events Arab parties should have hastened to contain this Arab crisis, which threatens foreign intervention with serious consequences.

In fact, every country that thinks independently should not remain silent over such intervention near our coasts or borders, especially if this is a part of a greater plan using the events in Iran and Afghanistan as a smokescreen to advance and occupy new positions at the expense of the Arab liberation movement.

The national revolutionary forces in the Arab homeland are aware of the new conspiracies of colonialism and their aim and are capable of replying to colonialism and its agents. Their ability should not be doubted.

EL MOUDJAHID VIEWS NONALINED MOVEMENT'S COLD WAR ROLE

LD130840 Algiers EL MOUDJAHID in French 28 Jan 80 p 5 LD

[A. Zouied article: "The Nonalined Movement and the Cold War"]

[Text] One month after the Kabul events we are witnessing a serious increase in American-Soviet tension brought about by whiffs of cold war and exacerbated rivalries.

The fact that President Carter has threatened to resort to force and use air and naval installations in the northeast region of Africa and the Persian Gulf cannot leave us unconcerned in view of a possible extension of areas where conflicts could arise.

It is to be feared that, displeased by the fact that it has been left on its own, the United States could be prompted to take to task countries which have refused to support it in its quarrel with the Soviet Union. Be that as it may, the saying that "who is not with us is against us" is unacceptable. Just like its corollary that "without U.S. domination, there is no hope of salvation."

In view of its sociopolitical nature, nonalinement is anti-imperialist and antihegemonist and therefore refuses to either become anyone's instrument or support some other policy.

A postulate of great importance springs from this: You must not let yourself be enrolled into or subjugated by either bloc, irrespective of circumstances.

Nonetheless, the Kabul events can be seen only as an episode revealing what is at stake in the strategic rivalry between powers directly inspired by the domino theory.

However, it is necessary to try to resist the excessively strong temptation to find in it a reason for resuming a mad arms race, activating military bases and forcing third countries into defense alliances relying on the dangerous concept of international stability based on balance between military blocs.

Care should also be taken not to use this as a pretext for other interventions, either in the same region or elsewhere, since if they were to extend very far they could lead to situations reminiscent of the worst days of the fifties.

In any case, it would be dangerous not to consider the possibility of a world confrontation resulting from some future train of events. Aware of the increasing dangers, Algeria and Yugoslavia have expressed their deep concern with respect to the use of power politics in international relations (see the joint communique published at the end of Prime Minister Abdelghani's visit to Belgrade yesterday) while emphasizing the efforts which nonalined countries are duty bound to make with a view to reducing tensions.

It is obvious that the nonalined countries' contribution in the international sphere is of essential importance in any consistent search for solutions to problems facing the international community. The fact that they strive to preserve peace outside spheres controlled by blocs naturally enjoins them to make the powers insure a more serene atmosphere and to encourage these powers to conform more closely in their international relations with the provisions and obligations enshrined in the charter.

It is insofar as these desires, ideals and principles are reflected in its views and deeds that the nonalined movement will increase its influence and become a major factor in the development of international relations.

MALI PRESIDENT ENDS BRIEF VISIT TO ALGERIA

LD121346 Algiers APS in English 1219 GMT 12 Feb 80 LD

[Text] Algiers, 12/02/80 (APS)--At the term of a short visit to Algiers stressed by political talks with Mr Chadli Bendjedid, president of the republic, FLN secretary general, General Moussa Traore, president of the Republic of Mali, left Algiers Monday afternoon for Samako. He was seen off by President Chadli, accompanied with Mr Mohamed Ben Yahia, Politburo member, foreign minister.

Presidents Traore and Chadli reviewed a detachment of "Haras el Djoumhouri" which paid to them military honours. General Traore greeted the members of the diplomatic corps accredited to Algiers.

ALGERIA APPOINTS AMBASSADOR TO FINLAND

LD081709 Algiers EL MOUDJAHID in French 30 Jan 80 p 3 LD

[APS report: "Assent to Appointment of Algerian Ambassador to Finland"]

[Text] Algiers--The government of the Republic of Finland has recently given its assent to the appointment of Mr Abdelkrim Chitour as ambassador extraordinary and minister plenipotentiary of the Democratic and Popular Republic of Algeria to the Republic of Finland based on Stockholm, the Foreign Ministry has announced.

ANDREW YOUNG'S DEPARTURE STATEMENT REPORTED

LD131730 Algiers APS in English 1612 GMT 13 Feb 80 LD

[Text] Algiers, 13/2/80 (APS)--The former U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, Mr Andrew Young, left Algiers Tuesday.

Mr Young expressed in a statement upon departure his satisfaction with the talks he had with Mr Chadli Bendjedid, president of the republic and FLN Party secretary general. "Our talks centered on Algerian-U.S. relations and the prospects for their reinforcement," he said.

The former ambassador asserted that the United States have many friends in the region. "Now they have a new friend: the Saharan people", he said adding that the peoples of northwest Africa must live in peace and stability.

During his stay, Mr Young visited the Saharan refugee camps and had talks with Saharan leaders. In Algiers, he conferred with President Chadli Bendjedid and Foreign Minister Mohamed Ben Yahia.

He was seen off by Foreign Ministry officials, a POLISARIO Front member and the U.S. ambassador to Algiers.

ARRIVAL OF U.S. STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL REPORTED

LD131735 Algiers APS in English 1615 GMT 13 Feb 80 LD

[Text] Algiers, 13/80 (APS)--Mr Carlton Coon, Jr, director for "North Africa" at the U.S. State Department, arrived Tuesday to Algiers on an "information visit".

Mr Coon, Jr, was welcomed at "Houari Boumediene" international airport by senior officials of the Foreign Ministry and the U.S. charge d'affaires in Algiers.

Mr Coon, Jr, has already visited Mauritania, Morocco and Tunisia.

LIBYA

JANA: U.S. MARINE CONTINGENT ARRIVES IN OMAN

LD131500 Tripoli JANA in English 1418 GMT 13 Feb 80 LD

[Text] Washington, February 13, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY--The American military administration has started to invade the Arab Gulf region. Eighteen hundred American Marines have arrived in the Sultanate of Oman on board four amphibious ships.

An American military source today confirmed the arrival of these American troops in the Arab Sea. According to AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE (AFP), the unit is equipped with war machinery including 19 helicopters, "AM-60" tanks, landing craft and tow and Dragon anti-tanks missiles.

AFP referred to a source close to the American Defence Department that these troops are to remain in the area, indefinitely.

This aggressive measure by the U.S.A. is part of the conspiracy to strike at the liberation movements in the region and to fight the progressive countries opposed to the imperialist American policy against the freedom of the peoples.

CSSR DEFENSE MINISTER'S ACTIVITIES REPORTED

LD141014 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 0700 GMT 14 Feb 80 LD

[Text] Banghazi--Gen Martin Dzur, CSSR minister of defense and member of the CPCZ Central Committee, accompanied by the members of his delegation, attended a military exercise in Banghazi yesterday. The exercise, which was carried out by the paratroop and shock forces of Banghazi, included a demonstration of how our troops are trained in mountain climbing.

The CSSR defense minister also toured the paratroop and shock forces' school, including a factory which manufactures all kinds of parachutes.

The guest minister and the military commander of Banghazi district exchanged souvenirs.

The CSSR defense minister made a statement to JANA in which he said: We have seen the courageous soldiers of the shock and paratroop forces in a splendid military training exercise. This shows that the Libyan Arab armed forces enjoy a high degree of efficiency in absorbing all kinds of difficult and sophisticated military training. He said: We are certain that the soldiers of the Libyan shock and paratroop forces are prepared to carry out any fighting task that their leadership may entrust to them.

The CSSR defense minister concluded his statement by conveying heartfelt wishes to the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah for further great revolutionary successes in building the Jamahiriyah under the leadership of the great Al-Fatah revolution.

AL-QADHDHAFI CONGRATULATES IRAN'S BANI-SADR

LD131516 Tripoli JANA in English 1420 GMT 13 Feb 80 LD

[Text] Tripoli, February 13. JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY--The leader of the grand Al-Fatah revolution, Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, sent a cable of congratulations to President Abolhasan Bani-Sadr, on his election as the first president of the sister Islamic Republic of Iran.

In the message, Colonel al-Qadhdhafi stressed that the solidarity between the two pioneer Islamic revolution's will prompt the establishment of the era of the masses, the reinforcement of the people's authority and the realization of Allah's will, that men should consult with each other and be free from the despotism of the rulers and of non-Jamahiriyah regimes and institutions.

Greetings to Khomeyni

LD112104 Tripoli JANA in English 1931 GMT 11 Feb 80 LD

[Text] Tripoli, Feb 11, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY--The revolution's leader Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi sent a telegramme of congratulations to Ayatollah Khomeyni on the occasion of the first anniversary of the popular revolution's victory in Iran. The text of the cable is as follows:

I congratulate you on the occasion of the first anniversary, for the victory of the Iranian Islamic Revolution under your historic leadership.

The Islamic Iranian Revolution is a veritable popular revolution which managed, through the will of the people, to achieve victory against the force of arms.

The Islamic Iranian Revolution is a cornerstone of the era of the masses. This era has commenced its forward march, heralding the end of serfdom from those who control wealth, authority and arms, and transferring those means to the people through people's congresses and committees. There is no democracy except through people's congresses, an armed people and a society based on partnership. The Iranian Revolution's cornerstone is Islam. Its purpose is freedom and its religious leadership is a model for the new Islamic state, as called for in the Holy Koran.

With reference to the verses of the Holy Koran "be alert, youth and elderly" and "prepare as much as you could of your strength to face the enemy" the strength here is the whole strength and the alertness is not only limited to the regular army but it means that the youth and the elderly should fight and the whole people should be armed. The parliamentary state, the professional army, capitalism, and the system of one ruling party, or a number of parties, all these are the by-products of Christianity in its stage of decadence, and of the Western bourgeoisie in the period of colonialism.

We have high hopes in the Iranian Revolution under your heroic leadership and your belief in the establishment of the state of new Islam, the liberation of Palestine and Alaqsa mosque and in supporting weak peoples whoever they may be. Finally, I assure you and the great Iranian people of our genuine stand with you in this stage of revolutionary change from an Islamic republic until the establishment of people's power. I also believe in our strategic alliance against our common enemy. Victory is inevitable. May peace and the mercy of God befall upon you.

Your brother Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi.

SUDAN

NUMAYRI RECEIVES CABLE FROM AS-SADAT

JN091513 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1500 GMT 9 Feb 80 JN

[Text] Khartoum, 9 February--President Numayri received a congratulatory cable today from Egyptian President Muhammad Anwar as-Sadat on the occasion of President Numayri's reelection as SSU chairman. President as-Sadat underlined the strong bonds between the National Democratic Party and the SSU, which will help to further promote economic integration between the two fraternal countries.

TUNISIA

NOUIRA TOLD OF FRENCH 'ATTACHMENT' TO TUNISIAN SECURITY

LD131643 Tunis L'ACTION in French 8 Feb 80 p 4 LD

[Unattributed report: "France Is Very Much Attached To Maintaining Tunisia's Security and Independence"]

[Excerpt] Yesterday morning at the government palace in the Kasbah, Prime Minister Hedi Nouira received Mr Jean Pierre Soisson, French minister for youth, sport and leisure, in the presence of Messrs Hedi Zghal, youth and sport minister; Hamed el Abed, the prime minister's principal private secretary; Mokhtar Zannad, cultural attache to the Tunisian Embassy in Paris, and French Ambassador to Tunisia Philippe Rebeyrol.

After the 70-minute interview Mr Jean Pierre Soisson told a Tunis Africa Press (TAP) agency representative that he had talks of a political nature with Mr Hedi Nouira, and that he reaffirmed to the prime minister that France's position on Tunisia has not changed since President Valery Giscard d'Estaing's Tunisian visit of 1975.

"France," Mr Jean Pierre Soisson said, "is deeply attached to political stability in the Mediterranean. This stability remains one of its concerns.

"I indicated to the prime minister, moreover, that France is very much attached to the maintenance of Tunisian security and independence. In this context," the French minister added, "we discussed the strengthening of bilateral cooperation in all spheres. In addition, we called to mind the economic problems and the means by which we must develop exchanges between our two countries."

TUNISIAN LEADERS SEND GREETINGS TO IRAN'S BANI-SADR

LD121450 Tunis TAP in English 1418 GMT 12 Feb 80 LD

["Pool" item]

[Text] Tunis, Feb 12 (TAP)--On the occasion of the first anniversary of the Iranian Revolution, President Habib Bourguiba conveyed a greeting message to the Iranian President Abolhasan Bani-Sadr.

On his part, Tunisian Premier Hedi Nouira sent a similar message to the Iranian president.

BOURGUIBA RECEIVES ANNIVERSARY MESSAGE FROM BENDJEDID

LD081632 Tunis TAP in English 1400 GMT 8 Feb 80 LD

[Text] Tunis, Feb 8 (TAP)--President Bourguiba received from the Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid the following telegram:

"On the occasion of the commemoration by the Tunisian and Algerian peoples of the Sakiet Sidi Youssef events in the course of which youth from both countries gave their lives as a sacrifice to their homeland and freedom, it is pleasant for us to join you in the celebration of this memorable day. This day had seen running the blood of our matyrs who had accomplished their highest duty of heroism and shown the way leading to the recovery of sovereignty and dignity and to the carrying out of noble objectives common to our two peoples.

"On this glorious occasion, we reiterate our attachment to the way followed by our martyrs at the service of our peoples' aspirations to the strengthening of brotherly relations between out two countries and to the construction of the Arab nation's unity.

"We wish to your excellency good health and happiness and to our brother the Tunisian people more progress and prosperity."

For his part, Mr Hedi Nouira, prime minister, received a telegram on this same occasion from Mr Mohamed Ben Ahmed Abdelghani, Algerian premier.

Mr Mohamed Fitouri, foreign minister, received a similar telegram from his Algerian counterpart, Mr Mohamed Seddik Ben Yahia.

BEGIN RECEIVES MESSAGE FROM CYRUS VANCE

TA131923 Jerusalem Domestic Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 13 Feb 80 TA

[Text] Prime Minister Menahem Begin received a letter from the U.S. Secretary of State Cyrus Vance today. The prime minister refused to release the contents of the letter before he reports it to the Cabinet at the beginning of next week. However, our political correspondent, Elimelekh Ram, assessed that the letter deals with the criticism leveled by the U.S. administration at the Cabinet decision to settle Jews in Hebron. Our correspondent said the prime minister may react to the U.S. letter in his meeting tomorrow morning with the director of the White House budgetary division, James McIntire, currently visiting Israel.

Further Details on Letter

TA132110 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2100 GMT 13 Feb 80 TA

[Text] The prime minister will inform the Cabinet members on Sunday of the content of the letter received from the U.S. Government today. The letter asks for clarifications about the government's decisions regarding the Jewish community in Hebron.

Our correspondent reports that Ambassador Efrayim 'Evron will arrive in Israel the day after tomorrow for consultations. The Hebron affair, as well as the situation on the northern border, will be two of the subjects that will be discussed with Ambassador 'Evron.

Jerusalem sources reported to our correspondent this evening that Israel intends to maintain a calm atmosphere on the northern border and clarifications in this spirit have been transmitted to the Americans. Our correspondent reports that the Americans have, over the last few days, used their influence with Syria in order that it moderate its positions and avoid aggravating the situation.

AUTONOMY DELEGATION SPOKESMAN DENIES CRISIS IN CAIRO TALKS

TA131816 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 13 Feb 80 TA

[Text] The spokesman of the Israeli autonomy delegation denied this morning that a crisis has developed in the talks now underway in Cairo. Earlier the Egyptian news agency had reported that the large gap in the parties' positions had remained unchanged. Egypt adheres to its plan to grant extensive powers to the autonomy council and insists that the autonomy would be extended to East Jerusalem as well.

Our correspondent, Razi Barqay, reports that the working teams will resume their discussions tomorrow and will begin to sort the powers of the council of the self-administration according to three classes: powers that will be handed over to the council; powers that Israel demands to keep under its control; and powers common to both the council of the administration and the military authorities in Judaea and Samaria.

An agreement will also be initialed in Cairo on the procedures of air traffic between Egypt and Israel. The Israeli delegation for these talks will return to Israel later.

An Egyptian delegation will soon arrive in Israel to discuss the arrangements of land traffic and the shipping ties between the two countries.

HA-ARETZ, DAUHR CRITICIZE SETTLEMENT POLICY

HA'ARETZ Views Implications

TA131711 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 13 Feb 80 p 9 TA

[Amnon Rubinstein commentary: "Hebron, the Autonomy and Equality"]

[Excerpts] The decision made by the Cabinet on Sunday to settle Jews inside the town of Hebron is the sort of decision to which we have become accustomed during the Likud government period. It is intended to satisfy everybody, to say "yes" and "no" at the same time, to procrastinate in making a decision while hoping that matters will utlimately settle down.

Israel's security will not increase if there are further developments inside Hebron. On the contrary, the IDF will have to carry an extra burden--to increase their supervision of the settlers, as is the case of the close supervision placed on the Hadassah building, by allocating additional forces to maintain the town's general security in the wake of the rise of tension in the orthodox Muslim town.

However, the main damage to Israel will be a political one. Turning the wheel back and determining settlement rights according to the original ownership of the buildings in Hebron means that a negative precedent has been established regarding the Arabs' demand to return to the houses they were forced to leave during the War of Independence. Israel has always contended that such a right of return could not be determined according to the legal status existing in Israel until it was drastically reversed by the wars and the establishment of the state.

The government now supports the granting of such a right for the same reasons claimed by the Arabs and, at that, regarding Jewish settlement in houses owned by them before 1929. However, if that is the case, how can we make a difference between this right and the right of Arabs of Haifa, Lod and Yafo to return to their home? All of us realize that the Israeli Government is referring to its own right and is not at all thinking about the Arabs' rights. Still, who else but Begin's government would accept the assertion that the same legal regulation that gives this right to the Jews could deny it from the Arabs?

Moreover, Mr Begin himself thought at the time that there was a reciprocity between the Jewish right to settle in the territories and the Arab right to settle in Israel. The first place indeed provides for such a reciprocal arrangement for both of these rights. So what happened to the parallel right? Perhaps Mr Begin has forgotten it. However, there will always be someone to remind us of recognizing the reciprocity of these rights. Jewish settlement in Hebron will again put this issue on the agenda.

The most destructive effect of Jewish settlement in Hebron will not be on some remote political question but on the autonomy plan presently being discussed by the government. The government claims that autonomy will only be given to the inhabitants who will carry it on their shoulders like a kit bag wherever they go and autonomy will follow. The territories will not be subordinate to the autonomy. The difficulties created by this strange distinction--unprecedented in human history--and the great dangers it places on Israel's security in Hebron will give rise to a new question.

According to the principles guiding the Likud government, it emerges that in the same town and in the same quarter there will be two types of inhabitants: first-class inhabitants--Jewish settlers enjoying all the civilian and political rights, including the right to vote, who will not be under the authority of the self-administration; and second-class inhabitants--Arab inhabitants who have been living in the region for generations, who will be subordinate to the authority of the self-administration and who will enjoy limited and reduced rights. As mentioned, this distinction will be made in the same town, the same quarter and the same street.

So long as the reference was to Qiryat Arba' and other settlements, one expected the autonomy plan to include a specific order to remove the Jewish settlements from the self-administration jurisdiction. With some difficulty though, one may claim that these areas are similar to the specific security areas Israel is allowed to keep according to the framework agreement signed at Camp David. However, Jewish settlement in Hebron would run counter to such an arrangement.

Five houses in the heart of a town do not constitute a separate settlement and can certainly not be included within the security areas mentioned in the framework agreement. No special logical or legal agreement would apply anymore. An unambiguous statement to the effect that unequal justice for Jews and Arabs in the same city will be necessary, since the former has a noble status while the latter has an inferior one, and since the latter pays taxes to the municipality and the autonomy authorities while the former does not.

Will anyone agree to such a principle? Will any of Israel's friends, including most Western Jews, buy such a distorted notion? From now on it should be said: Whoever wants to settle Jews in Hebron and Nabulus--and "spitting Mazal" [the lady who spit on Prime Minister Begin when the Jewish settlements were evacuated from the Rafah approaches] is right in saying that there is no difference between the two patriarchal cities--wishes to undermine and sabotage the government's autonomy plan.

One can understand the reason why Rabbi Levinger and his friends would like to do that. There is an internal logic within the Gush Emunim's position. However, what is so logical about the position advocated by Mr Begin and his fellow ministers? That could only be the reasoning of people who actually do not know what they want and who are torn between their emotions and the agreements they have signed.

On the autonomy question as well as on the Hebron issue the day will come when the Cabinet ministers will no longer be able to emerge from the prime minister's office and make their futile and ambiguous weekly announcements in the same offensive and derogatory tone. On that day it will become clear that the government's wishy-washy decisions saying yes and no at the same time have actually established facts to Israel's detriment.

DAVAR Comments

TA131150 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 13 Feb 80 p 7 TA

[Daniyel Bloch commentary: "Creeping Annexation in the Territories"]

[Text] There are some people who fear that one day they will wake up and find out that Ariq Sharon and Gush Emunim have plagued Judaea and Samaria with settlements, thus putting an end to any option on territorial compromise. Those people should be told that that day is slowly approaching. Very soon Jews will settle in Hebron and shortly afterwards there will be settlers inside Nabulus. [paragraph continues]

One should not be deluded by 'Ezer Weizman and the allegedly dovish ministers who are keeping a rein on settlements just as one should not be impressed by the right of appeal reserved to the Democratic Movement. The creeping settlement system is working at full steam. Despite the fact that the number of settlers in each and every site is small, the number of settlements is increasing. This will make it very difficult for any government wishing to reach some sort of agreement with either Jordan or the Palestinians. Evaluating Egyptian and U.S. reactions to reports regarding the resumption of Jewish settlement inside Hebron, it may be estimated that the United States will run out of patience one of these days. This will also be expressed, among other things, in the scope of aid in all spheres. Already there are people interpreting the U.S. refusal to accept all our requests as anger over the continuing settlement policy.

Politically speaking, settlement inside Hebron and in the heart of Arab-populated areas does not enjoy the support of the majority in the Knesset. Most members of the democratic faction and the liberals within the Likud, as well as individual members of other Likud factions and several NRP members, are opposed to this notion. The idea is not supported by the opposition parties. Even hawkish Labor Party members do not advocate settlement everywhere, but controlled settlement according to the guidelines included in the "Allon plan." However, most members of the coalition and the Cabinet ultimately succumb to Begin's rule. Let us not delude ourselves: Begin advocates settlement everywhere. Even if he sometimes is irritated by Sharon's style and Gush Emunim's methods, he ultimately willingly yields to facts in the field as was the case in all the improvised settlements in the territories and the women's invasion of the "Hadassah" building in Hebron. Begin is only deterred by the power of law as exercised by the Supreme Court of Justice. There is no doubt that Begin promised the people mediating between him and Gush Emunim that he would act with regard to the legal status of the settlements in Judaea and Samaria after the evacuation of Elon More in order to reduce the options of resorting to the High Court of Justice.

Ministers and coalition Knesset members opposed to this type of settlement should bear in mind that as long as they do not leave the coalition they hold full responsibility for its actions, just as members of MAPAM and the independent liberals are responsible for the establishment of Yamit and the Rafah approaches settlements even if they voted against them in the Cabinet. If the peace process is adversely affected by settlement acts in Hebron and the territories the responsibility for it will be placed on Weizman and Yiga'el Yadin no less than on Menahem Begin or Ariq Sharon.

AVIATION DELEGATION CONCLUDES AGREEMENT IN CAIRO

TA140719 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0700 GMT 14 Feb 80 TA

[Text] The Israeli delegation for aviation affairs made an agreement with the Egyptian authorities on two weekly flights between Ben-Gurion Airport and Cairo. The flights will be made by El Al and by planes of a subsidiary company of the Egyptian airline. The Israeli aviation delegation is returning to Israel today.

This morning another delegation is leaving for Cairo to discuss tourist ties. The head of the delegation, director general of the Tourism Ministry, Yoram Ziv, told our correspondent that an attempt will be made to conclude the technical arrangements involved in full tourist traffic between the two countries.

ARENS INTERVIEWED ON SYRIAN INTENTIONS IN LEBANON

TA131232 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1105 GMT 13 Feb 80 TA

[Chairman of Knesset Foreign Affairs and Security Committee Moshe Arens interviewed by Jerusalem Domestic Service correspondents Shalom Qital and Gabi Gazit in the Knesset studio--live]

[Text] [Qital] There are rumors that the Syrians intend to heat up the border around 26 February, the ceremonial date for the opening of the embassies--the mutual openings in Tel Aviv and Cairo--and there are quite a few reports about this. Mr Arens, what do we know about such Syrian intentions, if they exist at all?

[Arens] Well, as is known, it is difficult and sometimes impossible to guess the intentions of one's enemies and the art of decisionmaking is to make the correct decisions even when the intentions of the other side are not clear. This is something we learned the hard way on the eve of the Yom Kippur War. What is clear is that the Syrians are trying to improve their strategic situation by changing their deployment in Lebanon; the Syrians are not abandoning Lebanon, not at all. To the best of my knowledge, not even one Syrian soldier, tank or cannon has left the borders of Lebanon. But they are trying to transfer some of the policing activity they carried out in the past and, as a result of which the Syrian Army, or an appreciable section of the Syrian Army, was stuck in Lebanon so that the Syrian army's ability to coordinate was relatively restricted. They are trying to transfer these jobs to the PLO and the PLA, the Palestinian Liberation Army, which is also another form of the PLO under Syrian control. If they succeed in doing this, they will be in a situation in which they will have their cake and be able to eat it; they will continue to control Lebanon without their military capability being restricted.

[Gazit] Is there really any connection between all this and the date we mentioned?

[Arens] I think we should regard what the Syrians are doing in Lebanon today in terms of long range strategic dimensions and so it should not be connected with any particular date. They want an improvement in the position of the Syrian Army and this will be true on 26 February or 28 February and also several months later.

[Qital] In fact, when this Syrian activity began a few weeks ago people linked it to USSR policy, as a sort of diversionary action by the Soviet Union to turn the spotlights to the Middle East while the Soviets were in Afghanistan.

[Arens] I see this, in the best case, as a marginal component to everything happening here. I think we understood, although we did not always express this, but we have understood for a long time that the Syrian Army is stuck in Lebanon and this is a strategic situation which is not convenient for Syria and it is possible that we may assume that the day will come when they try to improve this situation.

[Qital] At any rate, since we have mentioned that date, 26 February, the date of the opening of the embassies, in your opinion, how will Egypt react or, according to your evaluations, what is Egypt's reaction to the fact that the Syrians are trying to heat up the sector?

[Arens] Well, we do not yet know whether they will try to heat up the sector and whether this will be linked with that date. I think that Egypt's reaction, to a great extent, will depend on the scale of the action and the scale of the action could range from the smallest--some sort of diversionary action, an action which really focuses on a specific date and ends at the end of that date--to a widescale action, an offensive.

[Gazit] If we rely on our peace agreement with Egypt, what are we expecting from the Egyptians in the event of such a heating up of the border?

[Arens] Look, I think that we have every right to expect peaceful relations from the Egyptians with no connection with what happens on our other borders. So, we have the right to expect that the Egyptians will not intervene and even that no situation will be created where we are confronted with the fear that they might intervene and so our decisions in the strategic, tactical sphere should not be influenced by the fear of Egyptian intervention.

[Qital] Since you are speaking about some sort of activity with long-range strategic aims, you have recently returned from the United States and even then this Syrian activity was taking place. There was Gromyko's trip to Damascus. How do they regard this new alinement there?

[Arens] I must tell you that when I was there, the United States did not realize what was happening in Lebanon. It is possible that there are also grounds to complain about our publicity establishment, that we did not sufficiently explain the existing situation, because the impression in the United States was that the Syrian Army was abandoning Lebanon. When I arrived here it emerged that there was no truth in that report. The Syrian Army is not abandoning Lebanon. So there really was surprise and lack of understanding in the United States about the reason for the Syrians, who had tried to take control of Lebanon and who had paid a high price in keeping a large section of their army in Lebanon, suddenly deciding, in spite of the price already paid, to leave the sector. It is true that the theory was then advanced that this was being done in coordination with the Russians in an attempt to divert the world's attention from what was happening in Afghanistan. It is difficult for me to accept this claim. A military action, even preparations for a military action on the part of the Syrians, contains no small risks and Syria, the Syrian Army, the Syrian administration--it is difficult to assume that they would do this in order to do the Soviet Union a favor.

[Gazit] Moshe Arens, thank you very much.

U.S. ATTEMPTS TO MODERATE SYRIA'S POSITION

TA131417 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1400 GMT 13 Feb 80 TA

[Text] The United States is now making efforts to moderate Syria's position and prevent it from initiating hostilities. Our correspondent, Razi Barqay, has learned this from Jerusalem sources. The sources noted that Israel is maintaining tight contacts with Washington and updates it on developments on the northern border. It is reported in Jerusalem that Israel does not want a deterioration in the situation and will do everything to guarantee a quiet border. However, the sources remarked that if the Syrians decide to start actions against Israel, there will be no second Yom Kippur.

PERES: ALINEMENT WILL IMPLEMENT TERRITORIAL DECISIONS

TA131430 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 13 Feb 80 p 2 TA

[Text] If the alinement returns to power it will be able to implement every future decision in the framework of a territorial compromise with Jordan regarding the West Bank and Gaza, even if the Likud attempts to muster opposition to such a decision. This was stated by Labor Party Chairman Shim'on Peres to members of the U.S. Jewish committee at a meeting in the Knesset building.

Peres said that the Israeli Labor Movement is responsible for a series of difficult decisions opposed by the right, such as the partition plan, the 1949 armistice agreements, the 1957 Sinai withdrawal, the acceptance of UN Resolution 242 and the interim settlements with Egypt and Syria. The Labor Movement will also be able to make a brave decision regarding a permanent solution in the West Bank and Gaza.

Replying to a question on the future of Jerusalem, Peres said: The alinement will not compromise on the issue of Jerusalem's unification or sovereignty. However, it will keep an open mind regarding religious rights and the possibility to fly flags. Replying to a question on the alinement's attitude toward the "Peace Now" Movement, Peres replied that most principles postulated by that movement had been borrowed from the alinement's platform. However, "Peace Now" did not differentiate between settlement in densely-populated Arab areas and settlement for security reasons in areas which Israel cannot give up. The principles of the Jerusalem issue remain open; the alinement holds clear-cut stands on this issue.

U.S. ECONOMIC DELEGATION MEETS BEGIN, HURVITZ

Begin Meeting

TA140925 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0900 GMT 14 Feb 80 TA

[Text] In a meeting held in Jerusalem this morning the congressmen in James McIntire's delegation said that Israel's settlement policy leads to loss of support and friends in the U.S. Congress. This is reported by our correspondent Dan Eshel. The U.S. economic delegation, headed by James McIntire, the director of the White House budgetary division, came to discuss the economic aid to be received by Israel. One of the four congressmen in the delegation, the head of the House Appropriations Committee, Robert Giaimo, said that the U.S. budget is not flexible enough. Our correspondent says that their remarks imply that one cannot expect farreaching additions to the aid to be given to Israel. The remarks were made when the delegation met with Prime Minister Begin. Immediately afterwards, the U.S. representatives conferred with Defense Minister Weizman. This talk is still in progress.

Discussion With Hurvitz

TA132118 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2100 GMT 13 Feb 80 TA

[Text] The finance minister asked the U.S. economic delegation currently in Israel to act toward facilitating the terms of the loan Israel is receiving to redeploy in the south. Minister Hurvitz made this request to the director of the White House budgetary division and to the chairman of the congressional appropriations committee. In a meeting held in Jerusalem this evening, the finance minister told them that in 1981 Israel's repayment of debts will total $2.6 billion and that about a third of this sum will be repaid to the United States. The economic aid to Israel, therefore, only covers the repayment of the debt. The finance minister said that in the short range, Egypt has enjoyed the fruits of peace while Israel had to invest more in its security.

KNESSET AGAIN REJECTS CHANGE IN ELECTORAL SYSTEM

TA131432 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1400 GMT 13 Feb 80 TA

[Text] The Knesset has again rejected a proposal to change the electoral system and replace the present system by a regional one. This proposal was submitted by all the members of the Shay faction but only 24 Knesset members supported it while 37 opposed it.

A special majority of 61 Knesset members is needed for this type of draft resolution. Knesset members Yaguri and Savidor from the Likud, as well as the Labor Party members and the Democrats, were among the supporters of the proposal. The MAPAM representatives as well as the representatives of the small factions voted together with the coalition against the proposal.

On behalf of the Shay faction, Amnon Rubinstein said that under the present electoral system the government is a paralyzed parliament and most of the Knesset factions have undertaken to change the system but evade any commitment.

Yehuda Ben-Me'ir answered on behalf of the opponents saying that Shay's proposal to change the electoral system was rejected only 6 months ago and it is pointless to submit this proposal again and again if an agreement of most of the Knesset factions is not achieved beforehand.

RAPID IMPLEMENTATION OF HEBRON DECISION UNLIKELY

TA131113 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 13 Feb 80 p 1 TA

[By political correspondent Daniyel Bloch]

[Text] The government is not inclined to hastily implement the decision regarding Jewish settlement inside Hebron. At this stage, Begin apparently wants to make do with the decision in principle and not adopt an operational decision.

It has been learned that the NRP ministers are also not enthusiastic about the intention to settle Jews inside Hebron. They have also rejected the proposal to locate the Hesder Yeshiva [combining military service and religious studies] in the houses next to the "Avraham Avinu" Synagogue. A senior NRP source said that only if the prime minister himself were to propose such a plan would the NRP support it because of their deepest respect for him. In any other case, the NRP would not support such a plan in spite of the heavy pressure exerted on the NRP ministers by Hayim Druckman and Gush Emunim NRP supporters.

Nevertheless, government circles fear that Qiryat Arba' residents will invade several houses without permission, as was the case in the women's invasion of the Hadassah building, in the wake of Cabinet legal adviser Professor Zamir's assertion that UNRWA holds protected tenant rights over that building.

U.S. EAST JERUSALEM CONSUL HOLDS TALKS WITH W. BANKERS

TA140757 Tel Aviv ITIM in Hebrew 0740 GMT 14 Feb 80 TA

[Text] Bethlehem, 14 February--The new U.S. consul in East Jerusalem has recently started talks with Judaea and Samaria mayors. The talks were usually political and, according to the mayors, concentrated on the autonomy plan.

The consul has to date talked with the mayors of Bethlehem, Ramallah and Al-Birah. This morning Bethlehem Mayor Ilyas Frayj told the ITIM correspondent in Judaea and Samaria that the mayors expressed to the new consul their opposition to the Camp David agreements and the autonomy plan and annouced that peace cannot be established in the region without setting up a PLO-led Palestinian state.

A group of statesmen from the Canadian Foreign Ministry talked with the mayor of Bethlehem this week and discussed the autonomy issue too. Bethlehem Mayor Frayj informed them that the Palestinians want only a comprehensive peace in the region and their full rights maintained. He also demanded that the group use its influence with the Canadian Government to recognize the PLO.

AFGHANISTAN

DOST RECEIVES AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL DELEGATION

LD132322 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 13 Feb 80 LD

[Text] The Information Department of the Foreign Ministry has reported that Foreign Minister Shah Mohammad Dost met with an Amnesty International delegation at the hall of the Foreign Ministry at 1100 today and discussed relevant issues with them. At the meeting, the Amnesty International delegation welcomed humanitarian acts by the new leadership of Afghanistan, especially the mass release of political prisoners.

BAMIAN CITIZENS WHO FLED RETURN, LAY DOWN ARMS

GF131750 Kabul International Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 13 Feb 80 GF

[Text] Reports say that a flood of honest citizens who had fled their homes to the mountains in the face of the repression of Amin and his murderous gang are laying down their arms and returning to their homes to resume their honest and peaceful lives. A report from Bamian Province says that 3,860 persons from [word indistinct], citizens of various villages and districts in Bamian Province who had fled to the mountains in the face of the tyranny of Amin and his despotic gang, laid down their arms last week and returned to their homes. The report says that the leaders of these citizens went to the headquarters of Bamian Province.

During their conversation with the governor of Bamian, they said: In response to the statement by Babrak Karmal, secretary general of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan Central Committee, Revolutionary Council chairman and prime minister, and with the [words indistinct] of the new phase of the great Sawr Revolution, we returned today to our homes full of assurance, patriotic sentiments and love for our dear homeland, thus declaring our solidarity with our revolutionary state.

The governor of Bamian praised their patriotic sentiments. Referring to Babrak Karmal's historic speech of 27 December 1979, he said: Our revolutionary state will make every possible effort to compensate the material and moral losses sustained by citizens as a result of the tyranny of Amin, the butcher. The Democratic Republic of Afghanistan fulfills its promises and does not withhold any assistance to bring about the safe return of citizens to their homes.

KARMAL RECEIVES DPRK ENVOY, KIM IL-SONG MESSAGE

LD132304 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 13 Feb 80 LD

[Text] The Information Department of the Foreign Ministry has reported that Babrak Karmal, general secretary of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan [PDPA] Central Committee, president of the Revolutionary Council, and prime minister, received a courtesy visit at 1000 today by His Excellency [name indistinct] the DPRK ambassador to Kabul, at the Revolutionary Council headquarters. At the meeting the ambassador presented a message from his party and government.

Comrade Kim Il-song, general secretary of the Korean Workers Party Central Committee and DPRK president sent warm greetings on Babrak Karmal's election as general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee, president of the Revolutionary Council and prime minister of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan and expressed best wishes for his great success in his responsibilities. Kim Il-song expressed full confincence that relations of friendship and cooperation between our peoples in their common struggle against imperialism and national independence will be even further strengthened and developed.

OFFICIALS ATTEND HUNGARIAN ANNIVERSARY CEREMONY

LD132352 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 13 Feb 80 LD

[Excerpt] The embassy of the People's Republic of Hungary this afternoon celebrated the 35th anniversary of the liberation of Budapest, the capital of that country, from the yoke of fascism at a ceremony held at the cultural center of the Soviet Embassy in Kabul. The ceremony was attended by Dastagir Panjshiri, member of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan Central Committee Politburo and the Revolutionary Council; Shah Mohammad Dost, the foreign minister; 'Abdolmajid Sarboland, the minister of information and culture; high ranking officials ambassadors and charges d'affaires of the socialist countries residing in Kabul.

CONGOLESE DELEGATION LEAVES FOR HOME 13 FEB

LD140005 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 13 Feb 80 LD

[Text] The goodwill party and government delegation of the Republic of Congo which came to Kabul some days ago left for home this morning. Dastagir Panjshiri, member of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan Central Committee Politburo, some members of the Central Committee and a representative of the Protocol Department of the Foreign Ministry saw off the delegation. During its stay in Kabul, the delegation met with Babrak Karmal, secretary general of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan Central Committee, president of the Revolutionary Council and prime minister of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan, as well as some party and government officials of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan, and held talks on matters of interest.

KARMAL SENDS REPLY TO HUSAK'S GREETINGS

LD132306 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 13 Feb 80 LD

[Text] The Information Department of the Foreign Ministry reports that the following message was sent by Babrak Karmal in reply to the message of His Excellency Gustav Jusak, general secretary of the CPCZ Central Committee and president of the Socialist Republic of Czechoslovakia which he communicated while his aircraft was passing through Afghan airspace:

Dear comrade, I am pleased to be able to thank you for your comradely message which you sent while flying over the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan [DRA]. I assure you, my esteemed comrade that the people of the DRA, under the leadership of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan [PDPA] will continue their struggle against imperialist interference and fulfil the aims and aspirations of the Sawr Revolution.

I avail myself of the opportunity to express my best wishes for the further successes and happiness of the friendly people of Czechoslovakia.

[Signed] Babrak Karmal, general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee, president of the Revolutionary Council and prime minister of the DRA.

OFFICIAL INTERVIEWED ON WHEAT, FLOUR DISTRIBUTION

LD132110 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 13 Feb 80 LD

[Excerpts] Considerable price reductions for wheat and flour have occurred thanks to extensive supplies of these items in the capital and provinces. Following the speech by Babrak Karmal, secretary general of the PDPA Central Committee, president of the Revolutionary Council, and prime minister who said that the government has at its disposal sufficient quantities of public necessities, which had been given to us by the USSR, the old friend of Afghanistan and other cordial friends of Afghanistan, Eng 'Aziz, general director of the foodstuffs department granted an interview to a Radio Afghanistan correspondent. We now present part of that interview: [Begin recording]

[Question] Respected Eng Mohammad 'Aziz, general director of the foodstuffs and cooperative department. Could you say what kind of quantities of foodstuffs do you have at your disposal? Also, on what conditions has this aid been extended to Afghanistan?

[Answer] The foodstuffs department has a sufficient quantity of wheat in storages at present to respond to any shortage in supply or rise in prices. The friendly USSR Government has put 100,000 tons of wheat at the disposal of the Afghan Government free of charge. The value of this wheat amounts to 1.3 billion afghanis.

[Question] Is this distribution of wheat which you said is taking place at 70 and 75 afghanis [presumably the price varies between the two figures] in the Province of Kabul alone or does it extend to other provinces?

[Answer] After the recent decision, all the provincial branches of the foodstuffs department were officially instructed to sell 1 sair [about 8 kilograms] of wheat at 70 afghanis, and flour at 75 afghanis per sair in sufficient quantities to meet demand.

[Question] Respected general director of the foodstuffs department. Our compatriots know that counterrevolutionary elements in the remote provinces of the country sometimes commit subversive acts against our revolutionary government. Have you had any difficulty in transporting foodstuffs to remote provinces and reggions?

[Answer] At one time the counterrevolutionary elements, robbers and plunderers destroyed bridges and roads in provinces and other areas, but after the speech by the president of the Revolutionary Council asking the patriotic, noble and hard-working Muslim people of Afghanistan to cooperate with their government in not allowing counterrevolutionaries to destroy bridges and obstruct the transportation of foodstuffs for the deserving people, day after day routes have opened, bridges have been repaired by the patriotic people and foodstuffs are getting through. A program for the distribution of free wheat to deserving people has been prepared by the Red Crescent society. [Words indistinct] we have put wheat at their disposal and sufficient quantities are being transported to Badakhshan, Bamian, Paktia and Paktika Provinces. [all names as received]

Should it prove more economical we will transport foodstuffs from the capital by air. Foodstuffs to Paktia and Paktika will soon be transported with the help of the armed forces and the noble and toiling people. [end recording]

Dear listeners, you have heard part of our interview with the general director of the foodstuffs and cooperative department on the distribution of flour and wheat. In addition, other necessities such as fat, tea, soap, and so forth are being distributed by this department.

PEOPLE'S PARTY POLITBURO FAILS TO MEET FOR 2 WEEKS

BK141107 Hong Kong AFP in English 1038 GMT 14 Feb 80 BK

[By Michael Lewis]

[Text] Kabul, 14 Feb (AFP)--For 2 weeks now the Politburo of the Afghanistan People's Democratic Party has not met and consequently no major political decisions have been taken. The Politburo usually meets on Thursday but for the past 2 weeks there has not been any report in the state-owned Kabul NEW TIMES of its activities.

Babrak Karmal, the 50-year-old Marxist the Soviet Union swept into power in the Dec. 27 coup, has almost disappeared from public view. Only passing references to him have been made in the Kabul TIMES and he has had only one reported meeting in the past week, on Feb. 7, with Shilendra Kumar Singh, special envoy of Indian Premier Mrs. Indira Ganghi. Surprisingly there was no photograph of the two men together as would normally have been expected. An official Afghan communique on last week's talks between Mr. Singh and regime leaders here did not mention Mr. Karmal at all.

Mr. Karmal did, however, preside at a meeting of the Council of Ministers on Sunday [10 February] but this does not hold the same significance as the more powerful Politburo and Revolutionary Council, both of which Mr. Karmal heads.

Observers here noted that the communique following Mr. Singh's visit was not a joint one. But they were struck by one reference in it which linked Soviet withdrawal from Afghanistan to "credible guarantees" for an end to external armed aggression. It was not immediately clear what would be acceptable to Moscow or Kabul as guarantees although there has been vague talk of an international peace force being set up, a suggestion which has not in the past found much sympathy here.

Meanwhile, the lack of political direction and initiative is adding fuel to speculation in the capital that there is considerable infighting within the regime. And the man currently making all the running in the state-owned press and radio is former secret police chief and now Vice-President Assadollah Sarwari.

The announcement in the press that the joint number two in the hierarchy Soltan 'Ali Keshtmand had gone to Moscow on Feb. 7 for medical checks has caused great surprise among Western diplomats here. They recalled that Mr. Keshtmand was seen in public about 2 weeks ago at a reception to mark India's republic day and seemed to be in excellent health. But an Information Ministry official said Mr. Keshtmand had been tortured during the time he was jailed under the Hafizollah Amin regime and his health had suffered in consequence. It is impossible to obtain any precise information here on Mr. Keshtmand's health. Western diplomats are as much in the dark as the few remaining journalists in Afghanistan.

But the abrupt disappearance of the ranked number two has not helped to damp down speculation on why the new regime seems imcapable, or unwilling at this stage to take major policy decisions.

JALALABAD AIRFIELD, SALANG PASS ATTACKED BY REBELS

BK131221 Hong Kong AFP in English 1154 GMT 13 Feb 80 BK

[By Erwan Jourand]

[Text] Peshawar, Pakistan, 13 Feb (AFP)--The best organised rebel movement, Hezb-e Eslami Afghanistan, claimed today to have captured 40 government soldiers, including officers, in an attack Monday night on a Jalalabad military airfield.

In a communique published here today, the movement, which observers consider the most capable militarily, said that in the attack on an airfield outside Jalalabad, between the Pakistani border and Kabul, it also captured 150 automatic weapons and four anti-aircraft guns. One rebel soldier was killed.

The same communique said four Soviet military advisers had been killed in fighting around Jalalabad recently and a Soviet MI-24 helicopter was shot down near Qandahar, in the southwest of the country, killing at least 15 people including the Soviet crew.

The Muslim rebel movement also reported attacks on bridges and roads in the extreme northern regions of Badakshan and Kataghan [names as received], close to the Soviet border, claiming to have disrupted the Salang Kowtal-e Pass road linking Kabul to the Soviet Union.

In a further development the communique reported anti-Soviet protest strikes by shop-keepers in Qandahar, Herat, on the Iranian border and Bamian and Baghlan in the north.

Four Soviet Officers Killed

TA131702 Ankara Domestic Service in Turkish 1640 GMT 13 Feb 80 TA

[Text] It has been announced that Afghan rebel forces, which raided the Jalalabad military airbase which is under Soviet occupation, have killed four Soviet officers and have seized a large amount of arms. A statement made in Peshawar on behalf of Hezb-e Eslami [Islamic Party] which is resisting Soviet occupation says that the raid took place last night and that 14 Afghan soldiers were taken prisoners. The statement adds that the rebels destroyed certain roads and bridges in the (Katagan) and Badakhshan Provinces, in order to prevent the movement of Soviet units. The statement adds that shop owners in the southern and southwestern provinces were resisting by closing their shops.

AFP Report

OW131848 Paris AFP in English 1833 GMT 13 Feb 80 OW

[Text] Peshawar, Pakistan, Feb 13 (AFP)--Afghan guerrillas have stepped up their resistance to Afghan Government and Soviet troops with attacks on strategic bridges and a heavily guarded military airport, according to reports.

These attacks, reported by the mojahedin, or Moslem Afghan guerrillas, and by travelers reaching the Afghan-Pakistani border from Afghanistan, come months before the April melting of the snows in the mountainous regions where the rebels are based.

Specialists on Afghanistan had expected the insurgents to wait until the spring thaw before mounting a concerted effort against the Afghan-Soviet troops. Observers said the latest guerrilla operations may signal a switch from pure defense to an attempt at counter-offensive action by the poorly equipped and poorly organized rebels.

Concentrated mainly in the southeast, along the Afghan-Pakistan border, and in the north, along the Afghan-Soviet border, the Moslem guerrillas have, according to reports:

--Captured 60 Afghan soldiers, including officers, seized 150 automatic weapons as well as four anti-aircraft cannons and killed four Soviet military advisers in several battles over the past few days in the southeast regions of Paktia and Nangarhar.

--Attacked early Tuesday the heavily guarded military airport of Jalalabad, which sits at the entrance to the town on the road coming from Pakistan, 90 kilometers (54 miles) away.

The mojahedin, according to their reports, captured 40 Afghan troops at the airport, including several officers, 150 automatic weapons and several high-caliber arms. One guerrilla was reportedly killed, but there was no mention of any Soviets killed or captured. That the guerrillas could mount the attack at all is significant, taking on a major concentration of Afghan troops, recently reinforced by Soviets, at a major airport on an open and exposed plain.

Reporters traveling from Pakistan to Kabul and passing through Jalalabad said they heard cannons in the nearby mountains at night and, during the day, saw MIG fighters strafe the city while Soviet MI-24 assault helicopters took off toward the snow-covered peaks which hang over the plain of Jalalabad.

The guerrillas reportedly have damaged the route linking Kabul with the Soviet frontier, a strategic road built in 1964 by the Soviets that at one point is 3,000 meters (about 10,000 feet) high as it cuts through the mountains. Along this road, the guerrillas have destroyed several bridges, blocking the flow of Soviet transport.

Reporters who have reached the village of Mazar-e-Sharif, near the Soviet border, said Soviet authorities send important military convoys by this route, namely, armored cars, artillery, and food supplies. The Soviets have soldiers now stationed all along the route, according to reports.

In another action, the guerrillas recently shot down a Soviet MI-24 armored helicopter near Qandahar in the southwest, killing all 15 people on board, the reports said. The main question about the guerrilla activity is whether the rebels will continue to operate in separate groups, as is their tradition, or mount a united offensive. In any case, these growing guerrilla activities are probably the motive for Soviet reinforcements of men and material noted the past few days by reports from Kabul and by American electronic surveillance.

DELHI QUOTES KARMAL ON SIZE ON SOVIET FORCE

BK140310 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 14 Feb 80 BK

[Text] The Afghan president, Mr Babrak Karmal, has said the strength of Soviet troops in his country is not more than 10,000. In an interview in Kabul with the editor of a Bombay weekly, Mr Karmal said the Soviet troops in Afghanistan are for a specific purpose and for a limited period and they will go back as soon as possible.

The Afghan president expressed happiness over Mrs Gandhi's coming back to power. He said he wishes to visit India, which is a country of his dreams.

SOVIET TROOPS CRUSH 'APPARENT' REBELLION BY ARMY GARRISON

BK140958 Hong Kong AFP in English 0936 GMT 14 Feb 80 BK

[By Michel Lewis]

[Text] Kabul, 14 Feb (AFP)--Soviet troops backed by tanks and two MIG-23 fighter bombers have crushed an apparent rebellion at an Afghan Army garrison at Cargha, 20 kms (12 miles) north of Kabul, witnesses reported.

The rebellion lasted just over an hour on Monday, Feb. 11. Western diplomats raced to the scene from Kabul after seeing MIG jets drop bombs close to the village. Witnesses said they believed they were napalm bombs. The diplomats were stopped from reaching the village by police but managed to see Soviet troops and tanks go into action against the garrison. They heard automatic rifle and machinegun fire, as well as tank cannon blasts. No details of casualties could be obtained but several ambulances were seen taking wounded to the military hospital in Kabul.

It is not known how many Afghans were stationed at the garrison but diplomats said Cargha was one of the biggest in the region before the Soviet intervention on Dec. 27. There was no confirmation of the incident from official sources who refuse to discuss "sensitive" issues with Western correspondents.

Observers here were not surprised by the rebellion as it is known there is widespread resentment against the Soviets and there have been many reported desertions from the Afghan Army since the Soviet intervention. There have also been previous reported clashes between Russians and Afghan troops, including an artillery duel near the airport here last month, although this was denied by Moscow.

However, the near 35,000-strong Soviet force in Afghanistan with its sophisticated military equipment seems to be in firm control of the major cities and principal routes. But outside the towns the Soviets are said to be meeting stiff resistance from rebels and Western diplomats are talking of up to 2,500 Soviet casualties, with several hundred dead, since the intervention. Many of the dead were victims of sniper attacks although there have not been any fresh incidents in Kabul since two soldiers were shot in the Western suburbs at the end of last month.

According to intelligence reports reaching the capital, a Soviet military column has entered northeast Afghanistan at the border town of Eshkashem and is making for [words indistinct] Afghan troops are said to be pinned down by rebels.

Meanwhile reports reaching here from Qandahar, southern Afghanistan, and Herat in the west said that the bazaar strikes in both towns had ended, although the nightly rooftop protests against the Soviet presence were continuing. Observers have noted that the Soviets have so far not taken any action against these civilian protests, preferring to keep a low profile rather than further antagonise the local population.

In Kabul overnight, Monday, two major fires were reported--one at the posts and telecommunications building in the centre of the city and another reportedly at an office block. Sources here said the PTT blaze occurred after curfew at 11 pm which suggested it was an act of sabotage.

INDIA

DELHI RADIO REPORTS ON 13 FEB GROMYKO TALKS

BK131637 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 13 Feb 80 BK

[Text] The Soviet foreign minister, Mr Gromyko, and the external affairs minister, Mr Narasimha Rao, continued their talks in New Delhi today. They considered measures by which tension in Afghanistan and its neighboring region can be defused.

After a 2-hour meeting, Mr Gromyko told newsmen his talks with Indian leaders were very meaningful. Aides from both sides were present at the discussion. The talks will continue at a dinner hosted tonight by Mr Gromyko for the Indian foreign minister.

An official spokesman said that measures to defuse the situation need not necessarily be in the form of specific proposals. Whatever the time frame and differences in perception, both are in agreement about the ultimate objective of resolving the situation and will assist each other in doing so.

The Indian side conveyed to the Soviet minister its opposition to any development which brings cold war to this region or exacerbate tension in the area. It also underlined the need to prevent injection of additional arms into the region. It stressed that there should be no interference in the internal affairs of sovereign countries. Frontiers should be inviolable and the pattern of relations should be based on the five principles of peaceful coexistence.

The Soviet side took note of India's views and appreciated them. About India's initiative to hold consultations with other countries in this connection, Mr Gromyko felt that this was good for peace and stability.

In reply to a question, the spokesman said that supply of Soviet arms to India did not figure in the discussions. He also described as totally speculative newspaper reports about Soviet requests for Indian foodgrains. The spokesman dismissed suggestions that India was disappointed with the talks. He said the discussions were detailed and businesslike.

Mr Gromyko had invited the prime minister, Mrs Indira Gandhi, and the external affairs minister, Mr Narasimha Rao, to visit the Soviet Union. The invitations have been accepted in principle by both of them.

AFP Report

BK131452 Hong Kong AFP in English 1442 GMT 13 Feb 80 BK

[Excerpts] New Delhi, 13 Feb (AFP)--The two-day Indo-Soviet talks concluded here today with no indication that the Soviet Union would pull out its troops from Afghanistan in the near future.

An Indian Government spokesman was evasive when asked if Mr. Gromyko, who also had lengthy talks with Prime Minister Mrs. Indira Gandhi yesterday, had accepted India's stand that the Soviet troops should withdraw from Afghanistan as soon as possible. The spokesman said, they have never said they would never withdraw. On the ultimate objective of defusing the situation and removing tension, interim perceptions may differ, he added. The spokesman stressed that there was general agreement to assist each other in resolving the situation.

The spokesman indicated that during his talks with the Indian leaders Mr Gromyko had only reiterated the stand inherent in the statements made by the Soviet leaders previously on the situation.

The spokesman said India had also given broad indications to the Soviet side about the need for preventing additional input of arms into the region and our view that there should be non-interference in other countries internal affairs, frontiers should be held inviolable and the principles of peaceful co-existence upheld.

During their meeting today the two foreign ministers also exchanged views on international developments, especially in the Middle East and Southeast Asia as well as bilateral relations. They are likely to have informal discussions again later this evening during a return dinner given by Mr Gromyko for Mr Rao at the Soviet Embassy.

Gromyko Remarks at Banquet

BK131741 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1730 GMT 13 Feb 80 BK

[Text] The Soviet foreign minister, Mr Gromyko, has expressed satisfaction over his talks with Indian leaders. He said the talks had been very useful.

Speaking at a dinner hosted by him in honor of the external affairs minister, Mr Narasimha Rao, Mr Gromyko said that both sides confirmed their intention to develop and deepen relations between them. The two countries also reiterated their policy aimed at the struggle for peace and relaxation of international tension, he said. The Soviet minister stressed the need for Pakistan to live in peace and friendship with the neighboring countries. Mr Gromyko criticised the Pakistan leadership for spoiling its relations with a number of states. He said that the Soviet Union is convinced that there is an opportunity for developing good neighborly relations between Pakistan and India.

Further Report

BK140311 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 14 Feb 80 BK

[Excerpt] The Soviet foreign minister said Pakistan should live in peace and friendship with neighboring countries. He said Pakistan should cease intrusions into Afghanistan. The Soviet Union is convinced that there is an opportunity for developing good neighborly relations between India and Pakistan. He said India [words indistinct] as Indian leaders have told him during his current visit.

Grain Sale Denied

OW131810 Hong Kong AFP in English 1748 GMT 13 Feb 80 OW

[Text] New Delhi, Feb 13 (AFP)--A spokesman of the Foreign Ministry here today discounted as "purely speculative" a report that the Soviet Union had made a request for supply of foodgrains from India.

The report, in the newspaper THE STATESMAN, said the quantity was to be discussed today during Soviet Foreign Minister Andrey Gromyko's continuing discussions with his India counterpart Narasimha Rao.

India currently maintains a grain buffer stock of 19.5 million tons. Though it expects a decline in production this year, the buffer is believed to be big enough to allow for exports.

Gromyko Delays Departure

BK140332 Hong Kong AFP in English 0329 GMT 14 Feb 80 BK

[Text] New Delhi, Feb 14 (AFP)--The departure of Soviet Foreign Minister Andrey Gromyko, scheduled for 0900 (0330 GMT), was postponed for 2 hours today so that he could meet Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, an informed source said.

Gromyko, who arrived here on Tuesday, had a lengthy talk with Mrs. Gandhi on the afternoon of the same day but did not meet her yesterday.

Leaves for Home

BK140638 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0630 GMT 14 Feb 80 BK

[Text] The Soviet foreign minister, Mr Andrey Gromyko, was given a warm sendoff at the Palam airport at the end of his 3-day visit to this country. Mr Gromyko declined to make any statement. He said he is not going to make any statement now. The joint statement will be issued today.

Mr Gromyko was seen off at the airport by the external affairs minister, Mr P.V. Narasimha Rao, the Indian ambassador to Moscow, Mr I.K. Gujral, and other high officials.

Mr Narasimha Rao told newsmen that the talks went off very well, which will result in better understanding between the two countries, he added. The Indian ambassador, Mr I.K. Gujral, told All India Radio correspondent that Mr Gromyko had an unscheduled meeting with the prime minister, Mrs Gandhi, this morning. He said during their 40-minute meeting they touched upon points already discussed by the two sides.

Satisfaction With Talks

BK140912 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 14 Feb 80 BK

[Text] The Soviet foreign minister, Mr Gromyko's visit to this country has ended with both India and the Soviet Union expressing their satisfaction at the outcome of the talks.

In a joint statement, the two countries agreed to continue the dialog on issues of mutual interest. They also reaffirmed their determination to preserve and strengthen the relations between the two countries. The brief statement says the talks between Soviet and Indian leaders were held in an atmosphere of trust and cordiality. Among the subjects covered was the international situation, particularly the developments in India's neighborhood.

Before leaving for Moscow, Mr Gromyko had an unscheduled meeting with the prime minister, Mrs Gandhi. They were together for 40 minutes. Mr Gromyko was seen off at the airport by the external affairs minister, Mr Narasimha Rao; the Indian ambassador to the Soviet Union, Mr Gujral; and other officials.

Mr Rao later told newsmen that the talks with Mr Gromyko went on very well and this will result in better understanding between the two countries.

Text of Joint Statement

BK140907 Hong Kong AFP in English 0821 GMT 14 Feb 80 BK

[Text] New Delhi, 14 Feb (AFP)--The following is the text of the India-Soviet joint statement issued at the end of Soviet Foreign Minister Andrey Gromyko's visit today. [all quotation marks as received]

"At the invitation of the Government of India, Mr. A.A. Gromyko, member of the Politburo of the Central Committee of the CPSU, minister of foreign affairs of the USSR, paid an official visit to India from February 12 to 14, 1980.

"During his stay in Delhi, Mr. A.A. Gromyko was received by the president of India, Mr. N. Sanjiva Reddy and the vice-president of India, Mr. M. Hidayatullah.

"Mr. A.A. Gromyko called on the prime minister of India. Mrs. Indira Gandhi, and conveyed to her a message from the secretary general of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR, Mr. L.I. Brezhnev and had a detailed exchange of views with her. "He held official talks with the minister of external affairs, Mr. P.V. Narasimha Rao.

"The talks, which were held in an atmosphere of mutual trust and cordiality, reviewed the international situation including the developments in the region and around it.

"They also reviewed bilateral relations in the perspective of their long and traditional friendship and in the spirit of the India-Soviet treaty of peace, friendship and co-operation of August 9, 1971."

"The two sides reaffirmed their determination not only to preserve but also to develop further and strengthen the mutually beneficial relations between the two countries.

"Both sides expressed satisfaction with the visit of the member of the Politburo of the Central Committee of the CPSU and minister of foreign affairs of the USSR, Mr. A.A. Gromyko, to India.

"They also noted that the talks and discussions had helped the two sides to strengthen their mutual understanding.

"The two sides expressed their agreement to maintain the exchange of opinions between the two countries on issues of mutual interest on a continuing basis."

"On behalf of the Soviet leadership and Mr. L.I. Brezhnev, secretary general of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR, Mr. A.A. Gromyko extended an invitation to the prime minister of India, Mrs. Indira Gandhi, to pay an official visit to the Soviet Union. He also extended an invitation on behalf of the Soviet Government to the minister of external affairs, Mr. P.V. Narasimha Rao, to pay an official visit to the Soviet Union.

"The invitations were accepted with pleasure. The timing of the visits will be agreed upon later.

"Mr. A.A. Gromyko expressed his thanks to the Indian leaders for the warm reception and hospitality accorded to him during his stay in India."

HINDUSTAN TIMES COMMENTS ON GROMYKO'S VISIT TO INDIA

BK140638 Hong Kong AFP in English 0446 GMT 14 Feb 80 BK

[Text] New Delhi, 14 Feb (AFP)--Commenting on Mr Gromyko's visit to India, the daily HINDUSTAN TIMES wrote today in its editorial that this visit "has shown that New Delhi and Moscow differ in their appreciation of the situation in Afghanistan."

The independent newspaper, which is the only Indian newspaper dedicating today its editorial to the visit, adds: "While India, as indicated by earlier statements by its spokesmen, favours an early withdrawal of Soviet troops from that country, the Russians clearly have no such intention. In such a situation, a declaration of intent to continue consulting each other is the only kind of public pronouncement possible, since a strident emphasis on differences may seriously damage Indo-Soviet relations.

Another daily, the INDIAN EXPRESS stressed in its report on the Soviet-Indian talks, that "for the first time in 25 years the two countries have clearly differed on a major international question."

YUGOSLAV FOREIGN MINISTER POSTPONES VISIT

BK140928 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 14 Feb 80 BK

[Text] The Yugoslav foreign minister, Mr Josip Vrhovec, has postponed his 3-day visit to India beginning tomorrow. President Tito's worsening health is said to be the reason for the postponement.

PETROLEUM MINISTER ON LOSSES DUE TO ASSAM AGITATION

BK131337 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 13 Feb 80 BK

[Text] The prolonged agitation in Assam has caused a loss of over 800 million rupees following the closure of refineries there. Disclosing this, the petroleum minister, Mr P.C. Sethi, expressed the fear that production in several spheres will be affected if the situation in the state does not improve soon. Talking to newsmen in New Delhi, he said if the agitation continues without improvement not only will the availability of kerosene and diesel be affected, but the production of cement, steel and fertilizers, power generation and movement of trains will also be greatly harmed. However, Mr Sethi was confident that the shortage of kerosene and diesel will be ended within a month after normalcy is restored in Assam. He said even the control on these two products may be lifted.

About the overall crude production in the country, the minister said it will touch over 12.5 million tons by the end of next month. Of this, over 5 million tons will be from Bombay High. About imports of crude, Mr Sethi said arrangements have already been completed for about 15.5 million tons against this year's target of 16.5 million. Efforts are to be made to tie up not only the remaining 1 million tons, but to import more crude, he added.

PAKISTAN

FOREIGN OFFICE: TALKS WITH KABUL AFTER SOVIETS WITHDRAW

BK131535 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 13 Feb 80 BK

[Text] A Foreign Office spokesman in Islamabad today stated that Pakistan will welcome further talks with Afghanistan. However, this will be possible only after there is a complete withdrawal of all Soviet troops from Afghanistan in compliance with the unanimously adopted resolutions at the recent Islamic foreign ministers conference in Islamabad.

The spokesman made this clarification when his attention was drawn to a broadcast by BBC that Pakistan has rejected an offer by Kabul authorities for talks.

PRAVDA CHARGES OF AFGHAN TERRITORY VIOLATION REFUTED

BK131613 Karachi Domestic Service in Urud 1500 GMT 13 Feb 80 BK

[Text] A Foreign Office spokesman today categorically refuted a report published in the Soviet newspaper PRAVDA which charged that Pakistan Air Force planes had violated Afghan airspace and that there had been unusual movements of Pakistan troops along the Pakistan-Afghan borders. The spokesman, describing the report as completely unfounded, noted that such fictitious news was propagated a few weeks ago and was denied.

The spokesman also strongly refuted the charge that Pakistan has granted permission to use it as a base territory for launching armed attacks against Afghanistan. The spokesman regretted the fact that such mischievous and baseless propaganda against Pakistan was probably aimed at justifying the totally unacceptable Soviet intervention in Afghanistan.

JAPANESE DEPUTY MINISTER KATORI BRIEFED ON AFGHAN REFUGEES

BK131239 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1005 GMT 13 Feb 80 BK

[Text] The visiting Japanese deputy foreign minister, Mr Katori, called on the Northwest Frontier Province governor, Lt Gen Fazle Haq, in Peshawar this morning and exchanged views on the situation arising out of the Soviet intervention in Afghanistan. Later, he was briefed by the provincial commissioners for refugees on the presence of Afghan refugees and the relief measures taken by the Pakistan Government.

Promises Increased Aid

BK140120 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 13 Feb 80 BK

[Text] The Japanese deputy foreign minister, Mr Yasue Katori, has said during his talks in Islamabad he conveyed Japan's readiness to increase its aid to Pakistan substantially. Addressing a news conference in Islamabad tonight, he said the talks were also characterized by an exchange of views of the two countries on the international situation and bilateral relations.

He said there were three factors behind the Japanese Government's consideratin to increase its aid to Pakistan and economic cooperation with this country. He said the Pakistan economy has been subjected to a heavy burden by the influx of Afghan refugees. Japan had already given humanitarian aid amounting to 1 billion for the refugees. He also pointed to the [word indistinct] on Pakistan from the increased oil prices and its balance of payments position. Pakistan, he said, had very efficiently used Japanese assistance for its rapid economic development. Last year the Japanese assistance, including loans and outright grants, had totalled roughly $68 million.

Mr Katori agreed that debt relief was very essential for Pakistan in view of its balance of payments position. He said if the United States, Federal Germany, Britain and France agreed to reschedule Pakistan's debt repayment, it would be easier for Japan to follow it. He said during the talks in Islamabad he had been explained Pakistan's economic requirements, but Japan would have to wait for the report of the World Bank. He said Japan was ready to consult with other donor countries to meet Pakistan's genuine economic needs as far as possible. Japan, however, was not in a position to extend military aid in any form.

In reply to a question, he said the former Japanese foreign minister, Mr Sonoda, would be visiting Pakistan and some other Middle Eastern countries to strengthen Japan's relations with them in the wake of the changed situation after the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan. He said Japan and Pakistan had similar projections about the global and regional problems, and the traditional Pakistan-Japan friendly relations would be further strengthened in the years to come.

Earlier, the Japanese deputy foreign minister visited an Afghan refugee camp in (Jamrud).

MARTIAL LAW ADMINISTRATORS IN PUNJAB RECALLED

BK131623 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 13 Feb 80 BK

[Text] According to an official announcement from Lahore, the Punjab martial law administrator [MLA] has decided that all the sub-MLA's of the Punjab, except those of Lahore, Faisalabad and Rawalpindi, will be recalled by 15 February. Islamabad has been included in the area of activity of the Rawalpindi sub-MLA's. However, deputy martial law administrators will continue working in their divisions.

SRI LANKA

USE OF PORTS BY FOREIGN VESSELS MAY BE REVIEWED

BK081110 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 8 Feb 80 BK

[Text] The Sri Lanka Government will review the question of providing port facilities to foreign naval vessels if tension in the Indian Ocean region increases. The statement was made by the foreign minister, Mr Hameed, following a government decision to permit an antisubmarine destroyer of the U.S. 7th Fleet, the USS David R. Ray, to call at Colombo harbor today on a 3-day visit.

Mr Hameed said the decision had been taken in keeping with Sri Lanka's policy of permitting naval vessels of any country to call at Colombo provided the vessels are not carrying nuclear weapons and the country to which the vessels belong is not at war. He added that the government was closely watching the current developments in the Indian Ocean region. If the tension should increase, the whole question of providing port facilities to foreign naval vessels would be reviewed.

A spokesman of the American Embassy said the destroyer was on a routine port visit.